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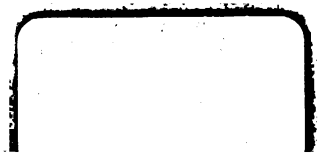

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Kent
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Martha Ash

(Kent)

[Fisher] CO

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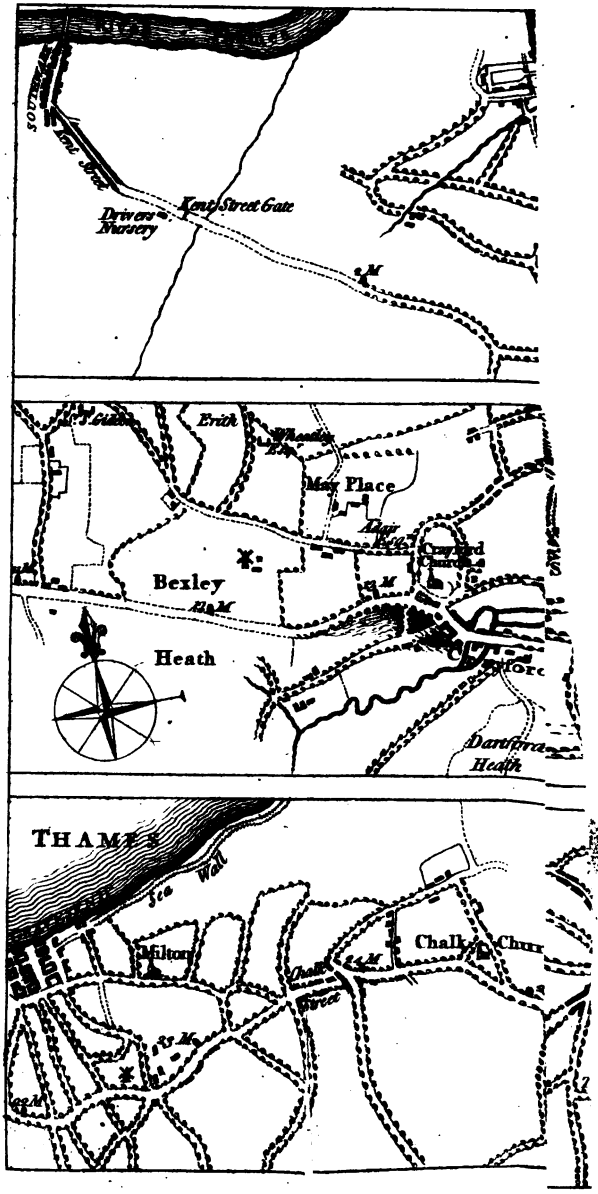
Plate 1.



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THE

KENTISH TRAVELLER's

COMPANION.

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THE

KENTISH TRAVELLER's COMPANION,

IN A

DESCRIPTIVE VIEW

OF THE

TOWNS, VILLAGES, remarkable BUILDINGS and ANTIQUITIES,

SITUATED ON OR NEAR

The ROAD from LONDON to MARGATE, DOVER and CANTERBURY.

ILLUSTRATED

With a correct MAP of the ROAD on a Scale of One Inch to a Mile.

[By Thomas Fisher]

——— O famous Kent,——
What county hath this Isle, that can compare with thee!
That hath within thyself as much as thou canst wish;
Thy rabbits, venison, fruits, thy sorts of fowl and fish;
As what with strength comports, thy hay, thy corn, thy wood,
Nor any thing doth want, that any where is good.

DRAYTON's POLY-ALBION.

PRINTED AND SOLD

By T. FISHER, Rochester; and SIMMONS and KIRKBY, Canterbury.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE favourable reception given to the very concise description of the towns and villages on the Kentish road, published in 1772 with the History and Antiquities of ROCHESTER, has induced the editors to revise and very considerably enlarge it, by collecting the best information of whatever is thought worthy a Traveller's attention in this much frequented Tour; nor have they spared for either pains or expence to render it what they hope it will prove, a *pleasing and useful Companion.*

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THE KENTISH TRAVELLER's COMPANION.

STAGE I.

*Antiquity and extent of Kent.—Lewiſham.—Deptford; Trinity Society.—Greenwich.—Blackheath.—Woolwich.—Eltham.—Welling.—Erith.—Crays.—Crayford.—*DARTFORD.

A Courſe of more than eighteen hundred years, cannot be ſtrictly ſaid to have deprived the county of Kent of its ancient name. Cæſar denominated it Cantium; time, therefore, has made no further alteration than in giving it an Engliſh ſound. Whence it acquired this name, antiquarians are not agreed. Lambard, who wrote his famous Perambulation of this county in 1570, fancied it might be deduced from Caine; which, in the Britiſh tongue, ſignifies a green leaf,

 becauſe

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becauſe of old, this county was full of woods: but, this has generally been deemed too forced an etymology. The conjecture of the judicious Camden is more commonly allowed to have a better foundation,—that it was ſo called from Britain here ſtretching out into a large corner eaſtward, and might therefore be derived from the word Canton, or Cant, which ſignifies a corner, and is ſtill ſo uſed in heraldry.

Kent is a maritime county, and is ſituated in the ſouth-eaſt part of Britain, oppoſite to France; from which kingdom, its neareſt limits is about twenty-one miles. It is bounded on the eaſt by the ſea; and on the ſouth, partly by the ſea, and partly by Suſſex, from which the river Rother divides it. Suſſex and Surry are its weſtern limits, and the Thames is its northern boundary.

It is in length, from eaſt to weſt, 63 miles; and in breadth, from Rye in Suſſex to the mouth of the Thames, 35 miles. Its circumference meaſures nearly 170 miles. It contains 1248000 acres of land, 39242 houſes, 408 pariſhes, and 30 conſiderable towns.

If this computation is accurate, there are not more than five *counties ſuperior to Kent in ſize: but, extenſive as it now is, it is ſuppoſed to have been formerly larger. At the weſtern quarter particularly, it is thought to have included all the land lying on the north-ſide the road from New-Croſs, thro' Peckham, and from thence to Lambeth-Ferry. Were not the diſcuſſion of this point foreign to the deſign of our intended itinerary, this conjecture might be ſupported upon ſome very plauſible grounds; and, admitting it to be a true opinion, it is not unreaſonable to infer, that Kent-ſtreet took the name from its lying within the county, and not merely from

* Yorkſhire, Devonſhire, Lincolnſhire, Hampſhire, and Northumberland.

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its leading out of Southwark into Kent. At preſent, and certainly for ſeveral centuries, the entrance this way into the county, is about New-croſs. Phillipot, the author of that valuable and ſcarce book, entitled Villare Cantianum, was inclined to think, that the reception of priſoners from Surry, having for a conſiderable time been uſually at this ſpot, might give riſe to the notion that this was the real boundary of the two counties.

After paſſing thro' the gate at New-croſs, the road on the right-hand leads to Lewiſham, Bromley, Sevenoake, and Tunbridge in Kent; and to Rye and Haſtings, two of the cinque-ports on the coaſt of Suſſex. The manor of Lewiſham was given by Elthrude, niece to king Alfred, to the abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent in Flanders, by which grant it became a cell of benedictine monks to that convent. This religious community obtained afterwards the appropriation of the rectory of the pariſh, and the advowſon of the vicarage: and when king Henry V. ſuppreſſed the alien priories, he made theſe poſſeſſions a part of the endowment of his new-erected carthuſian convent at Sheene in Surry. Upon the general diſſolution of monaſteries in England, this manor came to the crown, and remained there 'till the 5th of queen Elizabeth, who then granted it with the appertenancies to Ambroſe Dudley, earl of Warwick. But, after various changes, it has for ſome time belonged to the family of the preſent earl of Dartmouth, who is now the proprietor of it. The church of Lewiſham being judged incapable of a repair, application was made to parliament by the inhabitants, to empower them to raiſe money for building it; and the new church is not yet finiſhed.—Between this place and Dulwich, but in Lewiſham pariſh, is a hill with an oak upon it, called the oak of honour, becauſe queen Elizabeth is reported to have once dined under it. Indeed, the original tree, which ſhould have perpetuated the remem-

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berance of its having ſerved for a canopy to this illuſtrious princeſs, has long ſince periſhed; but, it is ſaid, care has been always taken to plant an oak near the ſpot, on which this traditional anecdote might be conſtantly ingrafted.

The main road from New-croſs will convey the traveller to Deptford, which probably acquired this name from the deep channel of the river at the paſſage of it in this place. It is now uſually called upper Deptford, to diſtinguiſh it from the lower town, which is ſituated nearer the Thames, but in very ancient writings the latter was denominated Weſt-Greenwich, and afterwards Deptford-Strond. Deptford was a place of little note till king Henry VIII. erected here a ſtore-houſe for the royal navy, and from that time it has been enlarging. In this dock-yard, the treaſurer of the navy had formerly a houſe; of late years, there has been no commiſſioner reſident, but it has been under the immediate inſpection of the navy-board. More than a thouſand men are conſtantly employed in the various departments of it; and, ſince the conſiderable enlargements it has received, is now the greateſt arſenal for naval-ſtores. Here the royal yachts are generally kept, and near the dock is the ſeat of Sir John Evelyn, where Peter the Great, czar of Muſcovy, reſided, whilſt he was informing himſelf in the art of ſhip-building.—By an order from queen Elizabeth, the ſhip Pelican, in which Sir Francis Drake ſailed round the globe, was laid up in the maſt-dock belonging to this yard. Phillipot is chargeable with a ſmall miſtake in aſſerting that nothing was left of this veſſel in a ſhort time; for out of her remains, a chair was made and preſented to the univerſity of Oxford. This appears from a copy of verſes compoſed by the celebrated Cowley upon this incident.—The well-adapted and pleaſing lines here referred to, are as follows.

To

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To this great ſhip, which round the world has run,
And match'd in race the chariot of the ſun;
This Pythagorean ſhip (for it may claim,
Without preſumption, ſo deſerv'd a name)
By knowledge once, and transformation now,
In her new ſhape this ſacred port allow.
Drake and his ſhip could not have wiſh'd from fate,
An happier ſtation, or more bleſs'd eſtate:
For, lo! a ſeat of endleſs reſt is given,
To her in Oxford, and to him in Heaven.

Works, Vol. II.

At Deptford is a ſociety, founded in the year 1515 by Sir Thomas Spert, knt. and incorporated by Henry VIII. The grant was made, in the fourth year of his reign, to the ſhipmen and mariners of this realm, by which they were enabled to begin, to the honour of the bleſſed Trinity and St. Clement, a guild or brotherhood perpetual, concerning the cunning and craft of mariners, and for the increaſe and augmentation of the ſhips thereof. This prince confirmed to them, not only the ancient rights and privileges of the company of mariners in England; but alſo their ſeveral poſſeſſions at Deptford; which, together with the grants of Q. Eliz. & K. Cha. II. were alſo confirmed by letters patent of the 1ſt of Jam. II. in 1685, by the name of *The maſter, wardens, and aſſiſtants of the guild, or fraternity of the moſt glorious and undivided Trinity, and of St. Clement in the pariſh of Deptford-ſtrond, in the county of Kent.*

Lambard has confounded this corporate body with the officers, to whom were entruſted the building and repairing of the king's ſhips; but the former have no authority of this kind over the royal navy.

Their principal buſineſs (and of the higheſt importance it is, that a cloſe attention ſhould be paid to it) is to take cogniſance

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ſance of all ſea-marks, and to erect light-houſes, upon the ſeveral coaſts of the kingdom, for the ſecurity of navigation; to direct the replacing or repairing of ſuch as may be removed or decayed, and to proſecute every perſon who wilfully and maliciouſly deſtroys or injures them. They are likewiſe to give the earlieſt public notice of their proceedings in theſe matters; and of all alterations that are diſcovered reſpecting the depth of water upon the ſea-coaſts; and of every other circumſtance which concerns the navigation within the channel. The cleanſing of the Thames, and the preventing and removing of obſtructions upon the river, is within their province. They ſupply the ſhips that ſail from the river, with ſuch ballaſt as is taken out of it to increaſe its depth, for which the owners of them pay the company one ſhilling per ton. They employ ſixty barges on this ſervice. They alſo may grant licences to poor ſeamen, not free of the city, to row on the river Thames. They have likewiſe the power of examining the mathematical children of Chriſt's Hoſpital; and of the maſters of his majeſty's ſhips. The appointing pilots, and ſettling the ſeveral rates of pilotage, are within their juriſdiction. They can alſo prevent aliens from ſerving on board Engliſh ſhips, without their licence; and they can puniſh ſeamen, in the merchant's ſervice, for deſertion or mutiny. They have likewiſe the privilege of hearing and determining the complaints of officers and ſeamen in the ſame ſervice; but ſubject to an appeal to the board, or court of Admiralty.

This corporation is governed by a maſter, four wardens, eight aſſiſtants, and eighteen elder brethren. The reſt are called younger brethren, and are unlimited in their number. All the latter are ſeafaring perſons, and are admitted, by election into the committee. Out of theſe, the elder brethren are choſen, except that there are always among them a few honorary members, generally noblemen, or other perſons

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ſons of rank, who hold, or have enjoyed, the chief offices of the ſtate. The duke of Marlborough, earls of Sandwich and Rochford, lords Weymouth and North are at preſent in this number.

They are empowered to purchaſe in mortmain lands, tenements, &c. to the amount of 500l. per annum; and alſo to receive charitable benefactions, to the like annual income. There are relieved every year, by this company, about 3000 poor ſeamen, widows and orphans, at the expence of about 6000l. The capital manſion belonging to this corporation is upon Deptford-ſtrond, not far from the old church; where are alſo twenty-one houſes tenanted by maſter's widows. They formerly held their conſultations here, in the hall; but of late years, it has been thought more convenient to meet for the general management of their buſineſs, at a large and commodious houſe in Water-lane, Tower-ſtreet. The brethren, however, have an annual proceſſion to their hall in Deptford on Trinity-monday, when they elect their maſter for the enſuing year.

Beſides Trinity-houſe, there is alſo in Deptford, another building called Trinity-hoſpital, which has thirty-eight houſes fronting the ſtreet. This is a handſomer ſtructure than the other, tho' not ſo ancient, and has large gardens belonging to it. This, as well as the former, is for the benefit of decayed pilots, maſters of ſhips, or their widows; the men being allowed 20s. and the women 16s. per month.

There is likewiſe another foundation called Trinity-hoſpital, ſituated at Mile-End. The ground on which this hoſpital ſtands, was given to the corporation of the Trinity-houſe, by captain Henry Mudd, an elder brother. This building was erected by the company in 1695, for the reception of 28 maſters of ſhips, or their widows, each of whom receive

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receive 16s. per month, 20s. a year for coals, and a gown every second year.

Originally Deptford was only one parochial district, the church of which was dedicated to Nicholas, a saint believed by our Saxon ancestors, to be very propitious to all sailors, merchants and fishermen; and we therefore find many sacred edifices upon the sea coast, and adjoining to great rivers put under his protection. But, from the great increase of inhabitants by the establishment of a dock-yard, an additional church was much wanted, before a favourable opportunity offered of erecting one. The new church, stiled St. Paul's, was built under the direction of the commissioners for building fifty new churches within the bills of mortality, and was consecrated June 30, 1731.—The present fabric of St. Nicholas was begun towards the conclusion of the last century, and as Isaac Loader, esq; who served the office of high-sheriff for this county in 1701, contributed 901l. towards the rebuilding and beautifying of it, the name of so generous a benefactor ought not to be omitted even in a concise historical account of this parish. His gifts were as follows:

	£.
By subscription for building the church	125
For paving the isles with marble	161
For the altar	293
For vestry and portals	50
For the bells	38
For the channel-house	194
For recasting the tenor with addition of metal	40
Total,	901

The river, which runs through this town, is called the Ravensborn, and rises at Hollywood-hill in Reston, a parish well-known to the lovers of antiquity, from the remains of a Roman

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Roman camp ſtill to be traced in it. The ſource of the river is not far from this fortification, and flows from thence by Hays to Bromley, where, on the eaſt ſide it takes in a ſmall brook, as it does, on the ſame ſide, a ſecond, about half-way between Bromley and Lewiſham. At the north-end of Lewiſham it receives a third little ſtream, and from thence, paſſing under Deptford-bridge, ſoon diſcharges itſelf into the Thames. The name of this town has a reference to a period, when there was no bridge here, nor is the time known of the firſt erecting of this commodious paſſage over the river. But, that there muſt have been a bridge for ſome years before the 20th of king Edward is evident; ſince a record in the Tower of that date, mentions it to have been adjudged, that the repair of the bridge over the Ravenſborn belonged to the hundred of Blackheath only, and not to the men of the village of Eltham, Modingham and Woolwich. It was a fair wooden bridge lately re-edified when Lambard wrote his Perambulation. But a ſtone bridge was built anno 1628, at the ſole charge of king Charles the firſt.

About one mile from Deptford is Greenwich, commonly diſtinguiſhed in writings by the name of eaſt Greenwich, ſituated on the margin of the Thames. The church, now a very noble ſtructure, was rebuilt, in this century, from the fund appropriated for building fifty new churches. It was in ancient times dedicated to St. Elphege, archbiſhop of Canterbury, who is reported to have been martyred by the Danes, anno 1012. The Royal Hoſpital, ſo well known, is ſituated partly on the ground where formerly ſtood a royal palace, of the front of which, next the water, a print was publiſhed a few years ago, from an ancient drawing, by the Antiquarian Society. In that old palace, Mary and Elizabeth, the two queens, daughters of Henry the VIII. were born; and there, the pious king Edward the ſixth died. Humphry duke of Glouceſter, brother of king Henry the Vth. built this palace,

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and gave it the title of Placence; and, by a grant from his nephew Henry the VIth. he was empowered to erect a caſtle and encloſe a park containing two acres. The tower of this caſtle, which was ſituated on the higheſt hill in the park, was finiſhed by king Henry the VIIIth. but it is now quite raſed, and a royal obſervatory ſet in the place by king Charles II. This edifice has been ſince furniſhed with all ſorts of mathematical inſtruments fit for aſtronomical obſervations. The preſent ſuperb hoſpital was began by king Charles II. who finiſhed one wing at the expence of thirty-ſix thouſand pounds. King William III. erected the other wing; queen Ann, and king George I. continued the work; but king George II. finiſhed this grand deſign. Part of the weſt and ſouth fronts were of brick, with ruſtic ornaments of ſtone work; but the ſouth front has been caſed intirely with ſtone within theſe few years. There are now above a thouſand diſabled ſeamen amply provided for in this royal aſylum. King Charles when he built the firſt wing of this hoſpital, intended to have erected a palace, and indeed from the ſtile and grandeur of the architecture, a foreigner might eaſily miſtake it for one. King William adopted the ſcheme of applying it to the uſe of Engliſh ſeamen, who, by age or accidents, ſhould be rendered incapable of ſervice. Beſides the ſeamen which are thus provided for, there are an hundred boys, the ſons of ſeamen, educated and trained up for the ſea. Towards the ſupport of this hoſpital, every ſeaman, whether in the royal navy, or in the merchant's ſervice, pays 6d. per month. This is ſtopped out of their wages, and paid to the treaſurer of the ſixpenny office on Tower-hill. There are conſiderable eſtates belonging to this hoſpital, and it has received large benefactions. The park, obſervatory, and many elegant buildings on each ſide the park, are worthy attention. The town is populous, and among the inhabitants are many perſons of faſhion. Here is a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays. At the

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the extremity of the town is a college, for the ſupport of twenty reduced houſekeepers; who, beſides proviſions, are allowed 1s. 6d. per week, and at ſtated times, gowns, linen and hats.

Eaſtward of Greenwich-park and Maize-hill, beyond Sir John Vanbrugh's buildings, is Weſt-comb, an houſe, paddock, and delightful gardens, commanding a moſt extenſive proſpect over the Thames into Eſſex and Middleſex. It is at preſent one of the ſeats of the marquis of Lothian, and was lately tenanted by lord Clive. Blackheath, which lies above Greenwich to the ſouth, is about one mile in length. Some have imagined Blackheath to have been the original name, and that it was ſo denominated from its being a bleak, or cold ſituation. The air is undoubtedly keen, but this circumſtance probably contributes much to the healthineſs of this delightful ſpot. Though in times of civil commotions large armies have aſſembled here, I do not recollect more than one battle fought, which was in the year 1497, when king Henry VII. routed the Corniſh rebels encamped upon this plain. Hiſtorians vary in their accounts of the number killed and taken priſoners. But among the laſt, were the ringleaders, Lord Audley, Hammock, an attorney, and Michael Joſeph a blackſmith, who were afterwards executed. Phillipot has obſerved, that the place of the Smith's tent, commonly called his forge, was remaining when he wrote his Villare, as were likewiſe many of the great grave hills of ſuch as were buried after the overthrow. However almoſt, if not all of theſe mounds are levelled. This heath has alſo been the theatre of many pompous exhibitions, as it was formerly not unuſual for the illuſtrious perſonages who viſited this iſland, to have here their firſt interview with our monarchs. In particular, Maurice, the emperor of Conſtantinople, who, in 1411 came over to require aid againſt the Turks, was ſplendidly received upon this ſpot by king Henry

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IV. and here, n 1416, king Henry V. is reported to have met the emperor Sigiſmond, and to have conducted him with magnificence to London. On Blackheath, to the weſt of Greenwich-park, are the villas of the duke of Montagu, and of the earl of Cheſterfield. Next the brink of the hill weſtward to the ſouth of the great road, is a ſhort ſtreet of houſes called Dartmouth-row. Adjoining to the houſe of the earl of Dartmouth, (which is at the ſouth end of the row) is an elegant chapel, which was rebuilt by the preſent lord, and hath public ſervice in it three times a week for the benefit of the neighbourhood. There is alſo by Dartmouth-row a very handſome ſeat in the poſſeſſion of the lord viſcount Falkland. On the north ſide of the great road, near the five mile ſtone, behind a pleaſant grove, is a row of genteel houſes, called Chocolate-row, from the houſe where the aſſembly is kept. At the weſt-end of thoſe houſes is that delightful lawn, named the Point, from which, is one of the richeſt proſpects that the imagination of the poet or painter can conceive. The ſeat of the late Sir Gregory Page is at the ſouth-eaſt extremity of Blackheath, and in eleven months was this ſtately and elegant manſion raiſed from the *foundation* and *covered* in. Two cauſes are aſſigned for the amazing expedition with which ſo large a fabric was erected; one, that the baronet is reported to have been allowed the liberty of uſing a ſufficient quantity of the materials prepared at Greenwich for the buildings intended to be added to that hoſpital; and the other, that Sir Gregory could purchaſe ſtones out of the ſame quarry from which the governors of that charitable inſtitution expected to be ſupplied, when they, for a very obvious reaſon, could not procure them. And the fact is certain, that the works at the hoſpital were ſuſpended during the whole year that the manſion upon Blackheath was building. The park, and kitchen garden without, and the maſterly paintings, rich hangings, marbles, and alto-relievos within this houſe, command

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mand the attention of every perſon of genius and taſte. Sir Gregory died the 4th of Auguſt, 1775, and left this ſeat, with a very ample fortune, to his nephew Sir Gregory Turner, of Ambroſden in Oxfordſhire; who, in compliance with his uncle's requeſt, has taken the name and arms of Page.

On the eaſt of the heath, cloſe to Sir Gregory's park, is Morden-college, founded by Sir John Morden, a Turky merchant, who died in 1708; and left his whole eſtate in truſt for the benefit of decayed Turky merchants, for the reception of whom, he finiſhed this college in his life time; and the charity took place in its full extent after the death of lady Morden, who alſo was a benefactor to it. The gentlemen who are admitted into this ſociety muſt reſide in the houſe: there are at this time thirty-five. They have each 20l. per year, and at firſt wore gowns and badges, but theſe have been diſcontinued. They eat and drink together in the hall: but have each a convenient apartment with a cellar. There is an handſome chapel, a good houſe and competent ſalary for the chaplain. There are alſo apartments for a treaſurer: John Bennet, eſq; a kinſman of the founder, executes that office. Morden-college is in the pariſh of Charlton, a village ſituated to the north of Blackheath, and about half a mile from the ſix mile ſtone. Sir Adam Newton, baronet, who was preceptor to Henry prince of Wales, ſon of king James I. empowered his executors to enlarge and beautify the church of Charlton; and, by a faithful performance of his will, they made it one of the neateſt pariſh churches in the county. The ſtately gothic manſion, which is viſible from the turnpike-road, was built by Sir Adam Newton, to whom king James granted the manner of Charlton. At the time of the general ſuppreſſion of the religious houſes, this manor was part of the poſſeſſions of the monaſtry of Bermondſey near Southwark, one of the priors of which convent, obtained from king Henry III. a grant for a weekly market, with

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with a fair yearly upon the eve of Trinity ſunday, and two days after. The former has been diſuſed for upwards of a century, and the latter transferred to St. Luke's day. The diſcontinuance of the fair would be a public utility, for, from its being held at ſo ſmall a diſtance from the metropolis, it is generally made the ſcene of diſſipation and riot by the London apprentices and ſervants. Horn fair is the common title, and tho' very many of the frequenters of it exhibit upon their "poor no heads" the vulgar and ridiculous alluſion to an ill-fated huſband, there can be little doubt of its having got this denomination from its being formerly a great mart for all ſorts of inſtruments and veſſels made with horn. Tradition indeed aſcribes the origin of this fair to king John, who being hunting near Charlton, and ſeparated from his attendants, entered a cottage, the miſtreſs of which was very handſome, whom he debauched. Being detected by the huſband, he was obliged to make him compenſation by a grant of land, and he, at the ſame time, eſtabliſhed a fair.

On the ſouth-ſide of Blackheath, and weſt of Sir Gregory Page's park, lies the village of Lee; at the eaſt-end of which, next Lee-green, are the pleaſant houſe and gardens of Henry Pelham, eſqr; and in the ſtreet of Lee are the houſes of the honourable Henry Roper, of David Papillon, eſq; of Acryſe in eaſt Kent, and of ſeveral other perſons of faſhion. On the north-ſide of the ſtreet, is an old ſeat of the Boone family, with the remains of a grove, and a piece of water in the ground adjoining. The ſhorteſt road from London to Maidſtone is through Lee village. Between the pariſhes of Lee, Eltham, and Chiſlehurſt, is an hamlet called Modingham, in which, is a ſmall ſeat of the right honourable lord Apſley, with pleaſant grounds about it; the beauty of the whole is owing to his lordſhip's improvements; here is alſo a very old manſion which belonged to the ancient family of the Stoddards. Between the village of Lee, and the ſummit of the hill, next Blackheath,

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Blackheath, are the elegant gardens and pleaſure grounds belonging to Miſs Fludyer, daughter and heireſs of the late Sir Thomas Fludyer. The houſe is not large, but hath a very handſome apartment upon the firſt floor, towards the gardens and pleaſure grounds; and the proſpects from theſe rooms to Shooter's hill, Eltham, Lee village, and into Sir Gregory Page's grounds and park, with the woods of Greenwich park ſkirting the view to the north, are moſt picpictureſque and beautiful. The front of the houſe commands the Dulwich hills, with Lewiſham church placed in the center of the view below them. On the ſummit of the hill next the heath, ſtands the ancient church of Lee. The church yard is neat, much ornamented with coſtly monuments of ſtatuary and black marble; which one is ſorry to ſee expoſed to all the inclemency of the open air and winter ſtorms. The great aſtronomer Dr. Edmund Halley lies buried here under a plain table tomb, with an inſcription of ſome length in Latin. In the church, on the north of the communion table, is a ſtately arched monument of alabaſter, ſupported with columns of grey marble, of the Corinthian order. The rectory houſe, and that of Thomas Edlyne, eſq; on the eminence near the church, command from every ſide of them very pleaſing views, the adjacent grounds being highly improved, and the near and diſtant proſpects enriched with ſeats, farm-houſes, towns, and villages: the Kentiſh and Dulwich hills in the front, Blackheath and Greenwich park behind; with an extenſive view, over London and Weſtminſter, of the Middleſex hills, which bound the horizon to the north-weſt. The manor of Lee came from the laſt earl of Rockingham to lord Sondes. Upon the declivity of Blackheath, next Lewiſham, is the grammer-ſchool. It was founded in the laſt century by Abraham Colfe, vicar of Lewiſham, as a free-ſchool, for the benefit of the ſeveral pariſhes in the hundred of Blackheath. It is now, and hath been long ſince,

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ſince, a conſiderable boarding-ſchool, preſerving at the ſame time the original inſtitution. There are ſeven annual exhibitions for the ſcholars from this foundation ſent to Oxford or Cambridge, ariſing from lands and houſes in Lewiſham pariſh, left by the aforeſaid Abraham Colfe: he bequeathed other charities to the pariſh of Lewiſham; and founded an Engliſh free-ſchool near the church for the children belonging to the pariſh. The founder committed the care and viſitation of theſe ſchools to the Leather-ſeller's company in London.—The miller on Blackheath pays to the poor five dozen of bread yearly on midlent ſunday, for the ground whereon the old mill ſtands.

The town of Woolwich is ſituated two miles to the left of the ſeven mile ſtone, on the banks of the Thames. The church, which has not been built fifty years, is a handſome brick edifice in a conſpicuous ſituation. Here is a royal dock-yard, where are employed about the ſame number of workmen as at Deptford; and it is like Deptford, under the immediate direction of the navy board. This is ſaid to be the moſt ancient naval arſenal in England, or as the learned editor of Camden expreſſes it, to have a right by ſeniority to the title of mother-dock to all the other king's yards. As a proof of it, he mentions the ſhip, Harry Grace de Dieu, having been built here as early as the 3d of king Henry VIII. Here is alſo a famous warren, or foundery, for cannon, mortars, ſhells, &c. with vaſt magazines of ordnance ſtores.

A part of the pariſh of Woolwich lies on the eſſex ſhore. The cauſe of this diſunion cannot be aſcertained; but that the river might be diverted out of its ancient channel after a flood is no improbable ſuppoſition. In the 17th of Edward II. a commiſſion of ſewers was iſſued for repairing a very great breach made by the overflowing of the Thames into the marſhes between Woolwich and Greenwich, but if it was

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was an inundation that occaſioned the ſeparation of the land above-mentioned, there is ſufficient reaſon to conclude it was of an earlier date. Harris relates his having ſeen an old MS which ſet the number of acres at 500, and noticed a few houſes and a chapel of eaſe.

One mile to the ſouth of the main road is the town of Eltham, ſituated upon an eminence. Anthony Beck, biſhop of Durham, and patriarch of Jeruſalem, having fraudulently ſecured the poſſeſſion of this manor, either rebuilt, or repaired and beautified the capital manſion, and gave it to the crown, reſerving to himſelf only a life eſtate in it. The ſtone work of the outer gate, being caſtle-like, is a remnant of the work of the age in which that prelate lived: but, the palace itſelf is in a more modern ſtile of building. This biſhop died at Eltham March 8, 1311, and after his deceaſe king Edward II. frequently reſided in this palace. His queen Iſabel was here delivered of a ſon, who, from the place of his birth acquired the name of John of Eltham. Poſſibly from this circumſtance this houſe has been, and ſtill is, improperly called King John's palace, unleſs it ſhould have got this appellation, from the ſumptuous entertainment given here by king Edward III. to his captive monarch John of France. King Henry VII. built the fair front towards the moat, but this palace was neglected, after Greenwich became the favourite country habitation of his ſucceſſors. Our princes often celebrated the feſtivals at Eltham with great pomp and expence. One of the laſt of theſe feaſts was held here at Whitſuntide 1515, when king Henry VIII. created Sir Edward Stanley, baron Monteagle. Phillipot has ſuggeſted this ceremony to have been performed by king Henry VII. but he was miſtaken, for this honour was conferred upon this valiant knight for his ſervice at Flodden-field. In this battle Sir Edward commanded the rear of the Engliſh army, and by the power of his archers forced the Scots to deſcend the hill, which occa-

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ſioning them to open their ranks, gave the firſt hope of that day's victory. *Collins's Peerage*, vol. ii. part i. p. 31. The ſtately hall, which was the ſcene of theſe feaſts, is ſtill in tolerable preſervation, and affords a ſtriking memorial of the vanity of all human grandeur; for, a part of the room which was formerly decorated with the moſt coſtly furniture, is now a lodge for carts and other implements of huſbandry; and, another corner of an apartment which might boaſt of having given to nobles, princes and kings, entertainments ſo ſplendid as to claim a remembrance in the annals of our country, is now a repoſitory of hay and ſtraw for the farmers cattle. A portion of the manor of Eltham was granted by king Charles II. to Sir John Shaw bart. for his firm attachment to the royal cauſe, during the preceeding civil wars. He, by purchaſe, became ſole proprietor of the remainder; and the whole is now held under leaſe from the crown by his worthy great grandſon, Sir John Shaw; whoſe elegant ſeat and plantations, do honour to the taſte of that polite gentleman. The ſtreet of Eltham conſiſts chiefly in houſes belonging to families of genteel faſhion. On the north-ſide of the town is a range of fine meadows, which have been much improved by their preſent poſſeſſor, the Rev. Dr. Pinnell, whoſe handſome garden opens into them. There is in it a green-houſe in which were formerly kept the exotics of that eminent botaniſt Dr. Sherrard. The "hortus Elthamenſis" is well known to the curious in botanical ſcience. The church contains ſome ancient monuments.

The eight mile ſtone is placed near the bottom of the weſt, and the ninth at the foot of the eaſt ſide of Shooter's hill. From the ſummit of this eminence, the traveller has a view of the cities of London and Weſtminſter, and may extend his proſpects not only to very many places in the county of Kent, but into Eſſex, Surry, and Suſſex. The Thames alſo preſents

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preſents a rich and grand appearance, and for more than thirty miles, this river, or the Medway, with all their navigation, contribute much to the pleaſantneſs of the road. To Shooter's-hill, king Henry VIII. and his queen Catharine are recorded to have come in great ſplendour from Greenwich on May-day; and were received by two hundred archers clad in green, with one perſonating Robin Hood as their captain, who ſhewed his majeſty their exquiſite ſkill in the uſe of bows and arrows. Some have conjectured that this hill took its name from its having formerly been frequented by thieves, who, from the adjoining woods, ſhot at paſſengers, and then plundered them; and it cannot be denied that this has in all ages been deemed a convenient ſpot for the taking of purſes. But might not the term Shooters, be given to this eminence, becauſe the archers here practiced this branch of military ſcience.

Between the tenth and the eleventh mile ſtones, is the ſmall village of Welling, the ſouth-ſide of which is in the pariſh of Bexley, and the north in that of eaſt Wickham, ſo ſtyled to diſtinguiſh it from weſt Wickham near Bromley. The ſmall church in eaſt Wickham is not more than a mile from Welling, and is to be ſeen from the road. Anciently it was only a chapel of eaſe to Plumſtead; and though it has for many years been a ſeparate pariſh, no inſtance occurs, in which the ſame clergyman has not been the incumbent of both churches. The corn tythes of eaſt Wickham are a part of the poſſeſſions of the hoſpital which Sir John Hawkins, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, founded at Chatham for the relief of decayed mariners and ſhipwrights.

At a ſmall diſtance from Welling, on the ſouth-ſide of the road, is Danſon-hill, upon which ſtands the ſeat of Sir John Boyd, baronet. The original deſign for this ſtructure was given by the ingenious Mr. Taylor, well known from the

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great works executed by him at the Bank, but ſeveral alterations are ſaid to have been made in the plan whilſt this houſe was building. There are, upon the principal floor three lofty, ſpacious, and elegant apartments, viz. a dining parlour, a drawing room, and a library. From the diminutive ſize of the windows of the next ſtory, it ſhould ſeem that the architect did not imagine the ſleeping in airy chambers might contribute to the health of the family, who inhabit this manſion. Upon this momentous point, our forefather's judged differently; however, ſuch is the *ton* of building of the preſent age, and therefore it muſt be right. If the traveller is not ſtraitened for time, it will be worth his while to ride down this road leading to Bexley, to take a view of the grounds behind the houſe, and of a very grand ſheet of water at a little diſtance from it. The diſpoſition of the former is ſtriking and beautiful; and when he has examined the latter, he will not fail to pay a compliment to Mr. Brown's ſuperior ſkill in forming and ſecuring ſo large a piece of water.

Not far from Sir John Boyd's, but on the north-ſide of the great turnpike road, is one of the lanes leading to Erith. This is mentioned by Lambard to have been anciently a corporate town, but from what king it acquired this privilege, and when it ceaſed to enjoy it, cannot be traced. Bartholomew, lord Badleſmer, a powerful baron, who was poſſeſſed of this manor, certainly obtained from king Edward II. the grant of a weekly market to Erith; this has, however, been long diſcontinued. Conſiderable quantities of corn are conveyed from this place to London, and it ſupplies the country for ſome miles round with coals. The large plantations of fruit trees are alſo a profitable article to the inhabitants of this pariſh.

Erith is in many ancient writings denominated Leſnes; but this latter was properly only a manor in Erith pariſh, and ſeems

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ſeems to have aſſumed the leading name from the famous abbey of canons regular, ſometimes called Weſtwood, which ſtood upon the demeſnes of the manor of Leſnes. It was ſituated about a mile to the weſt of Erith church, in the road leading to Plumſtead and Woolwich. Richard de Lucy, one of the grand juſticiaries of this kingdom in the reign of king Henry II. was the founder of this religious houſe; a gentleman deſervedly eminent as a ſoldier, a ſtateſman, and a lawyer, which different provinces he executed with fidelity to his prince, and a conſcientious regard to the true intereſts of the nation. The genius of the religion which prevailed in his time, led this wiſe man to build this monaſtic edifice, and to endow it with ample poſſeſſions. It was begun by him not quite two years before his death; and, after he had finiſhed it, he retired from the active world, and, it is ſaid, became the prior of his own convent. The king, unwilling to loſe the counſel and aſſiſtance of ſo able and experienced a ſervant, earneſtly endeavoured to diſſuade him from entering into this idle and uſeleſs ſcheme of life, but it was a vain attempt. Influenced by the ſuperſtitious prejudices of the age, he thought the putting on a monkiſh cowl would render his paſſage to heaven more ſpeedy and leſs tormenting. And in another inſtance did he likewiſe ſhew himſelf to be a very bigotted papiſt. For he made Thomas Becket, jointly with the virgin Mary, the patron and protector of his new ſociety; tho' that haughty and ſeditious prelate had formerly excommunicated him, for "being a favourer "of his ſovereign, and a contriver of thoſe heretical pravi- "ties, the conſtitutions of Clarendon."—Richard de Lucy was buried in the church belonging to his convent; and, in removing part of the foundation of this building, in the reign of king James I. ſeveral coffins, with portraitures upon them, were diſcovered in a vault, which are ſuppoſed to have contained the remains of this illuſtrious man, and of ſome of his

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his family. The abbey of Leſnes was ſuppreſſed before the general diſſolution of monaſteries; cardinal Woolſey having obtained a papal bull for appropriating the revenues of it towards endowing the new college he had founded at Oxford. All the buildings of this once celebrated convent have been ſo far demoliſhed, that it is almoſt impoſſible to diſcover any of the apartments or offices of it; but there are ruinous walls, which in ſome degree point out the boundaries of its precincts. Within theſe walls there is now a farm-houſe with its appurtenancies.

Upon the hills above Erith are two heaths of ſome extent; that on the weſt is Leſnes, and the other is ſtyled Northumberland. Belvidere, once the ſeat of lord Baltimore, afterwards of the late Mr. Sampſon Gideon, and now belonging to his ſon Sir Sampſon Gideon, baronet, a repreſentative in parliament for Cambridgeſhire, is ſituated upon Leſnes, or, as it is commonly pronounced, Leeſon-heath. Sir Sampſon is here erecting a very large houſe, and the only apartment left of the former manſion is an elegant drawing room built by his father. From the point of the hill upon which the houſe ſtands is a moſt pleaſing proſpect up the Thames.—Mr. Wheatly of Erith, who ſerved the office of high ſheriff of this county in 1769, has alſo built a ſeat on the north-ſide of Northumberland-heath. The plan of the houſe is well calculated for taking in various delightful views both down and up the river, and into the county of Eſſex. But as from its ſituation it is very much expoſed to the north and eaſt, the owner will doubtleſs wait with ſome impatience for the growing up of the clumps of trees, which are deſigned to break the violence of the wind from thoſe quarters, as well as to be an ornament to his grounds.—Neither of theſe ſeats is viſible from Bexley-heath, but, upon the road, about a mile on each ſide of Dartford, the traveller has a diſtinct view of both of them.

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To the ſouth of the heath is ſituated a tract of land, judged by many perſons to be the moſt beautiful ſpot in the county of Kent. It is uſually diſtinguiſhed by the title of the Crays, from the number of pariſhes in it which terminate in that word. There are within this diſtrict ſeveral gentlemen's ſeats, which will draw the attention of the traveller, but a few of them only can be noticed in this conciſe tour. The villa of Benjamin Harence, eſq; called Footſcray-place, is a ſtriking object. This was built not many years ſince by the late Mr. Bourchier Cleve, a citizen of London; and the plan of it was taken from the late earl of Weſtmoreland's houſe at Mereworth, but it is upon a ſmaller ſcale. His lordſhip is reported to have adviſed Mr. Cleve not to be afraid of disfiguring the building by ſhewing the chimnies, which at Mereworth are carried up under the roof, and diſcharge the ſmoke at the dome. The latter, muſt be owned to be a ſtile of building more ornamental, and which may not in Italy be attended with any material inconvenience. But an Engliſh architect ſhould always conſider that in his climate, fires may be comfortable in different apartments for nine months out of the twelve.—Northcray is placed on the other ſide of the river, and adjoining to that church is a large, handſome and commodious habitation, purchaſed by the late Mr. Hetherington: a gentlemen who, ſix years ago, preſented 2000l. to Bromley college, and, in 1774, eſtabliſhed a fund of 20,000l. for the relief of fifty indigent blind people—marks of a munificient ſpirit very uncommon in a living donor, and which therefore ought to be commemorated.—Not above half a mile from Mr. Hetherington's, to the left, on the top of a little eminence, is a houſe called Mount Maſcal; the rows of trees on each ſide of it will point it out to the traveller. This manſion, with another eſtate in this pariſh, belonged to Sir Comport Fitch, bart. and the fee of the greater part is ſtill in the heirs of his family. Sir William Calvert,

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Calvert, and Sir Robert Ladbroke, aldermen of London, ſucceſſively lived in this houſe, and it is now inhabited by —— Madox, eſq; of Lincoln's-inn.—The village from whence Bexley-heath hath its name, ſtands below, at a little diſtance from the ſouth-eaſt quarter of it; and the white ſteeple of the church is to be ſeen from the road. Bexley manor was in the poſſeſſion of the celebrated Cambden, who bequeathed it for the endowing of a profeſſor of hiſtory in the univerſity of Oxford. This is a very extenſive pariſh, containing divers hamlets, and many perſons of fortune are inhabitants of it. Several ſmall, but elegant houſes have been erected here within a very few years, and it is highly probable, that the ſalubrity of the air, with the convenience of its being only thirteen miles from the metropolis, will be a ſtrong inducement to other opulent people to fix their country retreat upon this delightful ſpot. About midway between Bexley and Crayford, but in the former pariſh, is Hall-place, an ancient ſeat, once belonging to the family of the Champney's, and afterwards to that of Auſten. Lord Le Deſpenſer is the preſent proprietor, but Richard Calvert, eſq; reſides in it.

When there is much duſt, and the draught heavy for the horſes, it is not unuſual for travellers, ſoon after they enter upon the heath, to bear rather to the north of the main road: the wind-mill is the point of direction, as it lies very little to the left of the tract; by purſuing which, they will likewiſe avoid one hill, and have the further ſatisfaction of paſſing thro' a ſhady lane that will lead them within a few yards diſtance of May-place; a ſeat ſtill venerable for its antique appearance, but which has ſuſtained a prejudice from an attempt made to give a more modern appearance to ſome part of the building. Sir Cloudeſly Shovel was once the owner of this manſion and of other conſiderable poſſeſſions in this pariſh. At preſent, a moiety of the eſtate is veſted in Miles Barnes, eſq; of Suffolk, and the houſe inhabited by —— Adair, eſq;

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eſq; Very little of May-place is to be ſeen from the main road, the ſmart faſhed building which is viſible from the top of the hill leading down into Crayford, is a farm-houſe belonging to Mr. Barne's eſtate, and now in the occupation of Mr. Munn a great callico-printer. The gallant ſea-officer juſt mentioned, who was in the manner of his death only unfortunate, preſented a fine altar-piece to the church of Crayford; and, in the window of the north-iſle of this neat edifice, there was preſerved not long ſince, and may be ſtill remaining, a good piece of painting on glaſs; the ſubject is Abraham's offering up Iſaac.—Some judicious antiquarians have imagined the Roman ſtation, called Noviomagus, to have been ſituated very near the town of Crayford, nor can the arguments on which they have grounded this opinion be eaſily diſproved. This place is alſo famous for a great battle fought here, in 457, between Hengiſt the Saxon, and Vortimer the Britiſh king, in which the Britons loſt 4000 men and four of their chief commanders. The rout was ſo general and deciſive, that they left Hengiſt from that time in quiet poſſeſſion of his Kentiſh kingdom.—In the open heath, near Crayford, as alſo in the woods and encloſures in moſt of the adjoining pariſhes, are divers artificial caves or holes in the earth, whereof ſome, according to Lambard, are ten, fifteen, or twenty fathom deep; the paſſage is narrow at the top, but wide and large at the bottom, with ſeveral rooms or partitions in ſome of them, and all ſtrongly vaulted, and ſupported by pillars of chalk. Many learned writers have ſuppoſed that theſe were dug by our anceſtors, to be uſed as receptacles for their goods, and as places of retreat and ſecurity for their families in times of civil diſſentions and foreign invaſions. But the much more probable opinion is, that far the greater number of them were opened in order to procure chalk for building, and for the amendment of lands.—Crayford, was ſo denominated from its being

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the principal place of paſſage thro' the Cray, a river which gives its name alſo to four other pariſhes. It riſes at Newel in Orpington, from whence it takes its courſe by St. Mary-cray, St. Paul's-cray, Foots-cray, North-cray, Bexley and Crayford, and a little below this town, it meets the river Darent. Lambard remarks, that "upon the Cray was "lately builded a mill, for the making of plates, whereof ar-"mour is faſhioned;" this was probably the ſame with the mill now uſed for ſlitting and flatting iron to make hoops, &c. In the 20th year of the reign of Richard II. William Courteney, archbiſhop of Canterbury, obtained from that king, the grant of a market to this place on Tueſday in every week, but this privilege has been long diſcontinued —The diſtance between Crayford and Dartford is two miles, and ſome part of the road being upon an eminence, there is from it a diſtinct view of the magazine at Purfleet. Near the ſummit of Dartford hill, on the ſouth-ſide of the road, is a wide lane, called Shepherd's-lane, leading to Dartford-heath, which is ſuppoſed to be the largeſt tract of land in Kent, that is ſo denominated. On the ſouth-weſt extremity of the heath, Baldwins is ſituated, the elegant ſeat of Richard Hulſe, eſq; and by his garden-wall runs the road to Bexley, to the Crays, to Chiſlehurſt, and to Bromley, which laſt town is ten miles diſtant from Dartford.

If the ſubdiviſion of counties into hundreds owes its origin to king Alfred? (and to that illuſtrious monarch our hiſtorians have, with reaſon, attributed this uſeful and political plan) Dartford has, probably for many ages, been a place of ſome note, ſince it gives its name to the hundred in which it is ſituated. The town itſelf derives its appellation from the river Darent. The chief paſſage formerly through the ſtream, but now over it, into the eaſtern parts of the county, was at this place. It is not agreed, whether the Darent takes its riſe at Squerries near Weſtram in Kent, or at Titſey in Surry, becauſe

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cauſe a ſpring in both theſe pariſhes is contributory to it. Afterwards the river runs to Braſted, to Sundridge, and to Otford; but between Braſted and Otford it receives five ſmall ſtreams. From Otford, the courſe of the river is to Shoreham, to Lullingſtone, to Eynsford, to Horton Kirby, to Sutton at Hone, to Darent, and to Dartford. According to Leland, the term Darent ſignifies, in the Britiſh language, a clear water; and Spenſer, in his famous poem, in which he mentions the rivers attending on the Thames, celebrates the tranſparent property of this river.

And the ſtill Darent, in whoſe waters clean,
Ten thouſand fiſhes play, and deck his pleaſant ſtream.

The thouſands of fiſhes with which the Darent is ſtored, is one branch of the poet's encomium. Had the Cray been his theme, he probably would have particularly diſtinguiſhed, not the quantity, but the quality of theſe watery animals; and in that river, as well as in the Thames, might we have read of

Swift trouts, diverſify'd with crimſon ſtains.

Nor can it be denied, that the trout of the Cray are far ſuperior to thoſe of the Darent, with reſpect to colour, and conſequently to flavour; an excellency which ought not to have been unnoticed in the deſcription of that beautiful vale.

A little below Dartford-bridge, the Darent becomes navigable for barges; and, at about the diſtance of two miles, receives the Cray into its channel; but when it has paſſed the town it is no more a clear ſtream, and ceaſes to be ſtyled a river; and, within two miles after its union with the Cray, diſembogues itſelf into the Thames, under the degrading appellation of Dartford-creek. This mark of debaſement was not caſt upon it when Spenſer wrote his poem, Lambard his Perambulation, and Camden his Britannia; but is now fixed by uſage.

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Upon that part of the river which runs thro' Dartford pariſh there are five mills, one for making gunpowder, one for making paper, two corn mills, and an iron mill.—The paper mill which ſtands not above half a mile to the ſouth of the town, ſuppoſed to have been the firſt of the kind in England, was ſet up by a foreigner of the name of Spilman in the reign of queen Elizabeth; and not long after, in the year 1590, Godfrey Box of Leige built, a little below the church, the firſt mill in this country for ſlitting of iron into bars, and drawing it into wires; and the mill now ſtanding upon the ſame ſpot is ſtill applied to the like uſes.

Some occurrences of a public nature are recorded by the writers of the hiſtory of England to have happened in this pariſh.—In 1215, Robert Fitzwilliam being ſent by the Barons to relieve Rocheſter-caſtle, at that time beſieged by king John, arrived with his army at Dartford, and was diſcouraged from proceeding any further by the deceitful repreſentation of a gentleman of the order of the Templars. The general was, it ſeems, more cautious than valiant, and the timidity of his diſpoſition was diſcovered by the perſon of whom he deſired intelligence concerning the ſtrength of the king's forces, and who therefore artfully exaggerated the power of the king, and his tale had the deſired effect. For Fitzwilliam retreated, and by his puſillanimity, the governour of the caſtle was obliged to ſurrender at diſcretion to his incenſed ſovereign.—In 1452, the firſt army raiſed by Richard Plantaginet, duke of York, in order to maintain his juſt pretenſions to the crown, was aſſembled upon a large plain near this town. It conſiſted of 10,000 men, but when the duke heard that king Henry VI. lay at Blackheath with a body of troops ſuperior to his own in numbers as well as diſcipline, he politicly avoided a battle that might at once have proved fatal to his claim.

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This parish is likewise reported to have been the scene of two transactions of a different kind from those above-mentioned. In this town, in 1235, the marriage of Isabel, sister of king Henry III. to the Emperor Frederick, was solemnized by proxy, the archbishop of Colen having been sent over to demand, for such is the uncourtly term used upon these occasions, this princess for his august master. And at Dartford, probably upon the brent, (of which further notice will hereafter be taken) king Edward III. on his return from France, in 1331, proclaimed the holding of a tournament. From these two instances there is reason to conclude, that our kings had some palace, or convenient manson, at Dartford; and, it appears upon record, that in the 2d year of the reign of Edward III. what was entitled the barony of the vill was in the crown. The manor house was afterwards converted by the same king into a nunnery, consisting of a prioress, and fourteen sisters of the order of St. Augustin. He also amply endowed his new erected foundation; and by the gifts of many other benefactors, the possessions of it were so large as to be valued at upwards of 400l. per year at the time of its dissolution. Several ladies of high rank were superiors of this convent, and particularly Bridget the fourth daughter of king Edward IV. is mentioned to have died prioress, and to have been interred in the chapel belonging to it. King Henry VIII. at a considerable expence, made this house a fit manson for himself and his successors; and queen Elizabeth is mentioned to have resided in her palace at Dartford two days, when she returned from her progress thro' great part of Sussex and Kent in 1573. The manor with all its appurtenancies was granted by king James I. to Robert earl of Salisbury but at that time the house was somewhat ruinous, and it has for many years been the habitation of the tenant of the demesne lands. The ingenious Mr. Grose, in his antiquities of England and Wales, has exhibited a view of the remains

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remains of this building, and has ſubjoined to the print an account of the preſent ſtate of it communicated to him by John Thorpe, eſq; of Bexley. As this may be of uſe to the traveller, ſhould he be at liberty to ſurvey this once famous edifice, a long extract from the letter is here inſerted.

" Of Dartford nunnery there remains only a fine gateway, " and ſome contiguous building now uſed as a farm houſe; " the gateway is now a ſtable for the farmers horſes, and " over it is a large room, ſerving, I ſuppoſe, for a hayloft. " The ſcite of the abbey was where the farmer's garden and " ſtack yard now are, it muſt have been a vaſt pile of " building, and, doubtleſs, very noble, ſuitable to ſuch great " perſonages as were members of it, as appears by a great " number of foundations of croſs walls, drains, &c. which " have been diſcovered. There were, and are to this day, " two broad roads, or avenues, leading to the gate; one " eaſtward, and flanked by the old ſtone wall on the right- " hand, from the ſtreet called Water-ſide, which leads " down to the Creek where boats and barges come up from " the Thames. This was certainly one of the principal ave- " nues from the town to the abbey. The other is to the weſt, " leading into the farm-yard fronting the arch of the weſt-ſide " of the great tower, or gateway. This way leads from the " farm up to the ſide of the hill into the great road to Lon- " don: and the large hilly field, on the right-hand, adjoin- " ing the road leading as above, is to this day called the " king's field. This abbey, and its environs, took up a great " extent of land; for, on the north-eaſt ſide, fronting this " view, were the large gardens and orchards, encompaſſed " with the antient ſtone wall ſtill entire, and more than half " a mile round, encloſing a piece of ground of twelve acres; " which is now, and has been for a number of years, rented " by gardeners, to ſupply the London markets; and famous " for producing the beſt artichokes in England. On the left

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" hand of the road, leading from Water-ſtreet to the eaſt-
" front of the abbey, are fine meadows, extending from the
" back part of the high-ſtreet, up to the building or abbey
" farm; and, oppoſite the long garden wall, on the right
" ſide of the ſaid road, and, without doubt, much more lands
" now converted into gardens and tenements, formerly lay
" open, and belonged to it."

A conſiderable corn-market is held weekly at Dartford, but here, as in almoſt every other town in the kingdom, the method of ſelling, is by ſample. Within thirty years the grain uſed to be regularly pitched, but not a waggon load of it is now to be ſeen in the ſtreet on a Saturday, which is the market-day. There is alſo a fair yearly on the ſecond of Auguſt for horſes and black cattle.

The church of Dartford is a ſpacious edifice; and the time of its being built is not known. In 1333, Hamo de Hethe, biſhop of Rocheſter, fixed a large window in the chancel, the ſize of which has been reduced many years, but the original dimenſions of it are yet viſible. As a collection was made in the pariſh for new bells in 1450, and there being for ſome years after ſeveral legacies for the ſame purpoſe, it is not unlikely that the ſteeple may have been built about the middle of that century. In the chancel is a flat grave-ſtone to the memory of John Hornley vicar of this pariſh, who died in 1477. He was the firſt preſident of Magdalen-college in Oxford, continued ten years in that honourable ſtation, and ſeems to have reſigned it on his becoming vicar of Dartford, and rector of a pariſh in the city of London. The inſcription on the tomb-ſtone, which conſiſts of twelve, not inelegant verſes, repreſents him to have been a clergyman of exemplary manners, and diſtinguiſhed and reſpected for his abilities and learning by the univerſity, of which he was a member. Some epitaphs contain only random praiſe, and moſt

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moſt other compoſitions of this kind are juſtly deemed panegyrics of the dead; but there is reaſon to believe that there is no exceſs in the eulogies beſtowed upon Mr. Hornley, from biſhop Waynfleet having committed to him the government of his newly-founded academical ſociety.—On the north ſide of the communion-table is a fair monument of alabaſter and black marble, for Sir John Spilman, incloſed with iron rails, on which is his effigy in armour, and that of his lady kneeling at a deſk, with each a book open; and on different tablets there are inſcriptions in German, Latin and Engliſh. If the paper-mill mentioned in a former page was not built under the direction of the knight to whoſe memory this monument is raiſed, he was probably nearly related to the perſon who firſt brought this manufacture into England.—There are two burying-grounds belonging to this pariſh, one contiguous to the church, and therefore properly called the church-yard, the other is on the top of the hill, to the north of the road leading towards Rocheſter, and ſituated by that means above the tower of the church. In no printed account of Kent has any hint been ſuggeſted reſpecting the time when this incloſure was allotted for the interment of the dead. Perhaps a reſearch into the hiſtory of a chantry in the pariſh of Dartford may tend to a diſcovery of this hitherto obſcure point. From ſeveral antient MSS. it appears, that there was formerly in, or *near* Dartford, a little chapel or chantry dedicated to St. Edmund, a Saxon king and martyr. John de Bykenore of this pariſh is imagined to have been the founder of it; a chaplain was, at leaſt, licenſed to it, upon his nomination, as early as the year 1326, and his widow Joan, and Robert Bykenore were ſucceſſively patrons of it till 1371, when the prioreſs and the ſiſters of the nunnery at Dartford are mentioned as being poſſeſſed of that right. Five marks a year was the original allowance to the chaplain, but there are grounds for ſuſpecting that care had not been taken at firſt to ſecure the legal payment of this penſion.

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ſion. A deed of endowment, under the common ſeal of the nunnery ſeems not to have been delivered to the biſhop of the dioceſe till 1463, in which, however, a field called Tanner's field was declared to be charged with this annual ſtipend. Under this inſtrument the chaplain became alſo entitled to a houſe with ſome freſh and ſalt marſh, appertaining to the ſame, to two acres and a half of land at Fulwick, and to one acre more of land oppoſite to the chapel of St. Edmund.—By the will of Thomas Yngledew, a chaplain, who died in 1462, he was to be buried before the altar of the chapel of St. Edmund the king and martyr; and Thomas Worſhip, who had probably been an officiating prieſt in the ſame chantry, deſired his body to be interred at the door of the chapel lately founded in the cemetery of St. Edmund in Dartford, above the charnel, on the weſt ſide, at the very entrance of the ſaid door.—This chantry was preſented as ruinous in 1496; and in 1516, ſix pariſhioners were ſummoned to anſwer to a charge of neglecting the repairs of it. Moſt probably no money was ever appropriated for this purpoſe, nor was it eaſy to prevail upon the inhabitants to ſubject themſelves to the burden of ſupporting this building. The chantry was, however, diſſolved in the reign of king Edward VI. and having been founded for ſuperſtitious uſes, the revenues of it were granted to the crown by act of parliament. That the burial ground under our review was the cemitery of the chapel of St. Edmund is no unlikely concluſion, and the foundation of an edifice which may ſtill be traced, adds ſome weight to this conjecture.

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STAGE II.

*Dartford Brent.—Detail of the courſe of the Roman road from Dartford Brent to Strood Hill.—Stone; Church and Caſtle.—Swanſcombe; Ingreſs; The cuſtom of Gavelkind.—Northfleet.—Southfleet.—Gravejend.—Milton.—Higham.—Cliffe.—Cowling-Caſtle.—Sborne.—Cobham.—Chalk.—Gad's Hill.—Strood.—*ROCHESTER.

AT a little diſtance from the ſummit of Dartford-hill is the open plain, upon which, as before-mentioned, king Edward III. is imagined to have held a tournament; and the duke of York, in the reign of Henry VI. certainly aſſembled here a numerous army. It is by many called Dartford Brim, and by others the Brink, but Brent, which ſignifies burnt, is the ancient name; and Rapin, in his detail of the latter tranſaction, ſtyles it, from Hall's Chronicle, the Burnt-heath; whence it acquired that appellation is not known. In digging the gravel-pit at the north-eaſt corner of this ground a few years ſince, the labourers diſcovered the ſkeletons of ſeveral bodies, eight in one part, and four in another. When the aſſizes were held at Dartford, the Brent is ſuppoſed to have been the place of execution, and therefore theſe were imagined to have been the bones of criminals who had ſuffered death under the ſentence of the law; but, if the encampment of the duke of York conſiſted of 10,000 men, and they remained here a few weeks, might not theſe be the remains of ſome of his followers.—No hoſtile bands have, however, fixed their ſtandards on the Brent for many years, and it has long ſince ceaſed to be a field for the performing of thoſe exerciſes

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exercises which had the forms of a real battle, and which were too often, undesignedly attended with accidents fatal to the lives of the combatants. The tournaments now exhibited upon this ground are of a more amicable kind. Lords, knights, and esquires indeed still enter the list, but the lance is changed for the bat: in the dexterous and powerful use of which instrument, and for expertly handling the ball, the inhabitants of this county have always been famous, and generally victorious. To affirm, that at the manly game of cricket, even the men of Kent were never conquered, would be paying them a compliment at the expence of truth.

As one branch of what is usually styled the Roman Watling-street is supposed to have been continued from the Bank of the Thames, a little above Lambeth palace, through Rochester and Canterbury, to Dover, it may appear rather strange to several of our fellow-travellers, that they should have proceeded sixteen miles on their tour, without any hint given to them by their guides to observe the marks of this celebrated causey. The reason of the omission is, that from the alterations and improvements made of late years upon the turnpike-road, particularly on Blackheath, Shooter's-hill, and Rexley-heath, the traces of the old Roman way are almost obliterated. But beyond Dartford Brent there is much less difficulty in discovering the remains of it.—East, south-east, is nearly the point of direction of the Watling-street in Kent, and soon after the traveller comes upon the open plain just-mentioned, if he falls into a tract that runs between the turnpike-road and the road leading to Green-street-green, it will convey him into a lane, still often termed the Roman road; and not without reason, since in divers parts it appears in a plain ridge. In some places, hedges stand upon it, but in others, for many yards together, it lies between the present highway and the hedge on the left; especially near a farm house, the true name of which is Blackfole, but it is vulgarly called

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Hungergut-hall; and poſſibly was thus denominated by ſome tenant, who apprehended himſelf in danger of being ſtarved, whilſt he was endeavouring to live by cultivating many acres of land belonging to it, that are not naturally very fertile.—That the traveller, during his ſearch after the Roman road, may not loſe his own way, it may be proper to point out to him the ſeveral turnings he muſt avoid ſhould he be riding to Rocheſter.—About a mile from Blackſole farm, he will come to a ſpot where four ways croſs one-another. The lane on his right-hand leads by a few cottages, ſtyled Bean-ſtreet, to Green-ſtreet-green; and that on his left to Greenhithe. But by proceeding forward he will keep nearly in the courſe of the Roman road for half a mile, till he gets to a three-went way.—From this opening, the Watling-ſtreet lies through a thick wood, not to be paſſed without great difficulty, unleſs it ſhould happen to have been the ſeaſon of the fall: for which reaſon it will be adviſable for the traveller to turn off to his right hand along a lane leading to Betſome, a hamlet in Southfleet pariſh. Here he will meet with another three-went way, and by turning to the left, he will, after he has paſſed North-end farm-houſe*, come to a ſecond lane on his right-hand, not far from the entrance into which, the ſtrait road through the wood would have brought him, had he been able to have purſued it. In this lane, which can be but a little out of the tract of the watling-ſtreet is a ſmall brook, called Spring-head. The prevailing notion of the people of this neighbourhood is, that the tide from the Thames formerly flowed up to this ſpot; and an anchor having been found in this valley a little below Spring-head, renders this opinion very highly probable. The plough has often turned up, in an adjoining field, large ſtones that ſeemed to have been uſed for the foundations of buildings; and as coins have been alſo diſcovered, it is not unlikely there

* Inſtead of turning to the left towards North-end farm, travellers generally ride through Betſome, and the firſt lane on the left, leads up to the direction poſt above-mentioned.

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may have been a ſtreet of houſes in this quarter of Southfleet pariſh for the accommodation of fiſhermen and mariners. This lane will bring the traveller to a four-went way, on which is fixed a direction-poſt. And if he takes the road leading to Rocheſter, he will, after riding about two miles, come to Shinglewell, near which village the Roman road ſhews itſelf very conſpicuouſly in divers ſpots, with the hedges placed upon it, ſometimes on the right, and ſometimes on the left hand, and now and then falling in with the common highway. In this manner, the courſe of it continues to be viſible quite on to Cobham park, and the park fence ſeems to ſtand upon it for a little way, but then leaving the pales, as may be ſeen (according to Dr. Plott's obſervation) in the paſſage out of the north-gate of the park, where the way appears to croſs it, it runs into a thick wood, where it is not to be followed. But the traveller, by purſuing the road that runs from the park gate along the pales, will, after riding about three miles, arrive at the hill which leads down to Strood.—This bye way has its amuſements and conveniencies even for perſons whoſe antiquarian curioſity may not be ſtrong enough to prompt them to enter upon it merely with the hope of traverſing the imagined ſteps of ſome great Roman general. Many parts of it afford pleaſing proſpects; in the ſummer it is ſhady, and free from duſt; and notwithſtanding the deviation made, near Betſome, from the Watling-ſtreet, ſome ground muſt be ſaved. Formerly, when all the old road way was paſſable, the difference of diſtance in riding from Dartford to Rocheſter muſt have been conſiderable. Let the traveller when near Blackſole farm, look back, and he will at once perceive how ſtrait the line of the Roman road was, from Shooter's-hill to that part of the lane; and what a compaſs is now taken on the turnpike road by Stone, Swanſcombe, Northfleet, &c. When the Watling-ſtreet ceaſed to be uſed as the principal road to London does not appear; the alteration was, doubtleſs,

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leſs, graduſ, and probably made for the ſake of a nearer communication with the Thames. There is, however, a tradition, that it was in order to eſcape the gangs of robbers which were apt to infeſt the woods contiguous to the Roman road. And in Swanſcombe park are ſtill remaining two deep caverns, where theſe freebooters are imagined to have concealed themſelves.

But to return to Dartford Brent, and from thence to attend the traveller on his tour in the adjoining pariſh of Stone. Within half a mile to the left of the ſeventeenth ſtone ſtands the church, which is a beautiful ſtructure, conſiſting of a chancel, a nave, and two ſide iſles. "The roof is lofty, ſupported "by a double row of fine ſlender columns, and pointed "arches; and at the weſt-end are two ſegments of an arch "which ſpring from the firſt columns to the ſouth and north "walls, and have a pleaſing effect. The nave is divided "from the chancel by a noble arch enriched with gothic "work. The chancel is ſpacious, with pilaſtres and arches "of brown marble, the ſpandels of which are ornamented "with gothic work. The north door of the church is curi-"ouſly adorned with a zig zag moulding, roſes, &c. The "windows are large and regular, as is the whole building, "which for ſymmetry and proportion may be juſtly eſteemed "the fineſt piece of gothic architecture in the dioceſe of Ro-"cheſter." Weaver (the author of ancient funeral monuments publiſhed in 1631) mentions "the whole fabric of "this church to have been in his time upholden in wond'rous "good repair, and her inſide neatly poliſhed." The pariſhioners of Stone ſtill deſerve commendation for the proper attention ſhewn by them to this ſacred edifice, as they have very lately, at a great expence, ceil'd the church, and repaired and ornamented different parts of it.—The manor of Stone belongs to the ſee of Rocheſter, whoſe biſhops formerly reſided for ſome months in the year in the manor-houſe, ſituated

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ated near the church-yard. It has long been inhabited by the farmer of the *demeſne lands, and the great chimney which is in the center of the preſent building is thought to be the only remaining part of the ancient manſion, which never ſeems to have been dignified with the denomination of a palace—At the foot of the hill, after paſſing Stone church, the traveller may catch a confined, but pleaſing view of the Thames. Weſt Thurrock is the church ſeen on the Eſſex ſhore.—Stone caſtle, which ſtands to the ſouth of the road, and, at a little diſtance from it, is the next object likely to draw the attention of the traveller. There is a difficulty in determining with exactneſs when this ſtructure of defence was raiſed. Perhaps it might be one of the one hundred and fifteen caſtles reported to have been built with the conſent of king Stephen, and not demoliſhed in compliance with the articles of agreement made between that monarch and duke Henry, afterwards Henry II. But tho' the age of this monument of antiquity cannot be fixed, the name of the perſon who built, or at leaſt, ſubſtantially repaired it, is not equally uncertain; ſince, according to Phillipot, the arms of the Northwood's were inſculped in the old ſtonework before it was diſmantled. In the 20th of king Edward III. when the honour of knighthood was conferred upon the Black Prince, John de Northwood paid a fine for this caſtle, but how much earlier any of the name was poſſeſſed of it has not appeared. The Norwoods were certainly of note in this county long before the year above-mentioned. Howberry in Crayford was the property of one of the name in the reign of Henry III. and Roger de Norwood, of Norwood Chaſteners, in Milton near Sittingbourn, attended king Richard I. to the

* About the middle of the 13th Century, theſe demeſne lands of Stone manor were ſurveyed and valued; the arable at 3d. and the marſh land at 4d. per acre.

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ſiege of Acon in Paleſtine. In the church of Minſter, in the iſle of Shepey; is an inſcription, which implies, that Roger Norwood, and Boon his wife, were buried there before the conqueſt; but, tho' it is not unlikely that the family might have been ſettled in Kent before the arrival of William the Norman, the characters of this epitaph ſhew it to be of a much later date.—The ſquare tower of Stone-caſtle is, probably, the only part of the fortreſs that is now remaining, and, as Phillipot deſcribes it, tho' it now lies wrapped up in its own ruins, yet the ſhell, or ſkeleton of it, within which Sir Richard Wiltſhire laid the foundation of the fabric now extant, repreſents to the eye ſome ſymptoms of its former ſtrength and magnificence. This caſtle, with the lands appertaining to it, is now veſted in feoffees, purſuant to the will of Dr. Thomas Plume formerly archdeacon of Rocheſter, and the rent thereof appropriated to the augmentation of ſmall livings within that dioceſe, and for the maintaining of a lecture at Dartford or Graveſend, every Wedneſday or Saturday morning, from the 25th of March to Michaelmas alternately, or one year at Dartford, and the next at Graveſend The money allowed by the will to the preachers is ten ſhillings for their ſermons, and two ſhillings for the dinner of themſelves and their friends, and the ſexton is to have ten ſhillings a quarter during the time of the ſaid lecture for tolling the bell. The archdeacon gave alſo ten ſhillings a quarter to be divided amongſt the moſt indigent and godly poor that moſt frequently reſort to this lecture: alſo twenty ſhillings each of the two quarters wherein the lecture is preached to the miniſter of the pariſh for his reading prayers before the ſaid lecture in the morning, and for the uſe of his pulpit. The incumbents of the twenty following benefices are the truſtees of this charity.—The rectors of Crayford, Fawkham, Graveſend, Luddeſdown, Milton, Ridley, Stone and Swanſcombe; the vicars of Cobham, Dartford, Eltham, Frendſbury,

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Freindſbury, Greenwich, Halling, Higham, Horton Kirby, Northfleet, Plumſtead, and Shorne; and the curate of Chatham. They meet twice a year at Stone-caſtle, viz. on the Tueſday next before Lady-day, and on the firſt Tueſday after Michaelmas, in order to tranſact the buſineſs of this benevolent and uſeful inſtitution; and ſuch of the truſtees as are preſent at the former meeting, preach in their turns the lecture for the ſucceeding half year. By the will of the donor, the tenant is to be allowed out of his rent twenty ſhillings to provide them a dinner on each of thoſe days.—Dr. Plume died the 20th of November 1704, and lies buried in the church-yard of Longfield, under an altar-tomb of black marble adjoining to the ſouth wall of the church. Longfield is a very ſmall pariſh, ſituated about four miles to the ſouth of Stone, and was anciently the only place of reſidence of the archdeacon of Rocheſter. The manor of it ſtill belongs to that preferment, which might probably be the reaſon for Dr. Plume's directing his remains to be interred there; and he has enjoined the truſtees of the Stone-caſtle eſtate to pay five pounds per annum, by half-yearly payments, to the churchwardens of Longfield for keeping his grave and grave-ſtone in good repair for ever.—John Talbot, eſq; is the preſent tenant of Stone-caſtle, and the traveller, by the view he has of it from the road, may eaſily conceive it to be a very beautiful ſituation.

At the bottom of the next hill, called Gravel-hill, on the north-ſide of the road, is a lane leading to Greenhithe. From this place great quantities of lime are conveyed to London for building; and the farmers upon the Eſſex coaſt are ſupplied with the ſame article to manure their lands. Coaſting veſſels alſo from different parts of the kingdom very frequently take in at Greenhithe a freight of chalk, which has been found to mellow and fertilize ſome kinds of ſoils. Petrified ſhells, and many other extraneous foſſils, are frequently found embodied in the chalk;

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ſome of which are extremely curious and very valuable.—John Lucas of Swanſcombe, by licenſe from King Edward III. built, and endowed a chapel in Greenhithe, to the honour of the Virgin Mary, in which, divine offices were to be performed daily for the health and ſafety of the king and the founder during their lives, and for their ſouls after their deceaſe, as alſo for the ſouls of all their anceſtors, and of all the faithful. Some of the walls of this chapel are ſtill remaining, but it has long been converted into a tenement.

When the traveller is at the top of Gravel-hill, he may diſcern, thro' the trees, that much admired villa Ince Grice, or Ingreſs, as it is commonly pronounced. The prioreſs and nuns at Dartford were poſſeſſed of this houſe, and it of courſe came to the crown upon the diſſolution of that religious community. From the time of the firſt grant of it in fee by queen Elizabeth, it has paſſed by ſale to many proprietors. Jonathan Smith, eſq; who was owner of it in 1719, built a new front; after him, the houſe belonged ſucceſſively to the late earl of Hyndford, to the preſent earl of Beſborough, whilſt lord Duncannon, and to the late Mr. Calcraft, who added to the manſion a ſpacious and elegant apartment, which commands an enchanting view of the river. The plantations, and other improvements in the grounds, formerly chalk pits, on the weſt ſide of the houſe, were made by lord Beſborough, and thoſe in the other parts by Mr. Calcraft. This gentleman particularly removed a great bank of earth on the ſouth-ſide, and by this means made it more airy and chearful. The old kitchen garden was upon this ſpot, but Mr. Calcraft encloſed a large piece of ground for this uſe on the other ſide of the road, within which he erected a hot houſe.

Greenhithe, as well as Ingreſs, is in Swanſcombe pariſh, the church of which diſtrict, lies about a mile to the ſouth of the turnpike road. To the memories of St. Peter and St. Paul was this ſacred edifice erected, but anciently it ſeems to have been

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been much more famous on account of an altar in it dedicated to Hildeferth, a ſuppoſed Saxon ſaint; whoſe name is not, however, enrolled in any monkiſh legend now extant. Lambard mentions his having ſeen a picture of him in an epiſcopal habit, fixed in the upper window of the ſouth-ſide of the church. Ignorant and credulous papiſts were ever inclined to recur for aid to different ſaints under different emergencies; and of theſe perſonages (many of whom, tho' canonized by the ſuperſtition of former ages, never had an exiſtence) ſome were conceived to be no leſs able than well diſpoſed, to remove the ſeveral diſeaſes and calamities of mankind. The teeth of St. Apollonia were a charm for the tooth-ach; St. Petrone and St. Sigiſmund, in the opinion of their votariſts, could cure a fever, or an ague; and a relict of St. Genow was a ſpecific for the gout. To St. Macurine and St. Hildeferth was aſſigned the ſtill more arduous province of relieving the diſorders of the underſtanding; and, before the reformation, the altar of the latter was frequented by numberleſs devotees, who were ſolicitous to have their friends reſtored to a ſound mind. It is, however, manifeſt, that the prieſts did not rely ſolely upon the miraculous interpoſition of the Saint at whoſe altar they officiated. For they conſtantly recommended cloſe confinement, a ſtrict regard to diet, and other rules, which, the ableſt practitioners, preſcribed for the cure of their patients who labour under a ſpecies of affliction, the moſt afflicting and terrible in the long catalogue of human maladies.

Swanſcombe is ſuppoſed to have taken its name from this diſtrict having been the place of the encampment of Swein king of Denmark, nor does this ſeem a forced etymology of the term. Phillipot pronounces it to be a certainty, that this monarch erected a caſtle here for a winter ſituation, and that ſome veſtiges of the fortreſs might be traced in his time. Harris alſo informs his readers of his having obſerved ſeveral

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heaps of earth which were judged to be Daniſh camps and ſconces, ſcattered about this pariſh, particularly on * High-roads hill, on the mounts, and in Swanſcombe park. According to the ſame author, they all lie very high, ſome having an hollow place at the top, and none of them above thirty or forty yards over, and he imagined them to have been places where a ſmall number of men were ſtationed in order to diſcover, and give warning of the approach of an enemy.

Swanſcombe was, for ſome centuries, no leſs celebrated by the men of Kent, than Runing-mead is ſtill by all the people of England, as being the ſcene upon which their anceſtors were ſuppoſed to have exhibited a repreſentation of a moving wood, which aſtoniſhed and alarmed William, duke of Normandy; and where, "upon throwing down their leafy ſcreens, and "ſhewing like thoſe they were," with their bows and their arrows, their ſpears and their ſwords, they demanded and obtained a confirmation of all their cuſtomary laws and privileges, before they would acknowledge that prince to be their ſovereign. As Thomas Spot, a religious of St. Auſtin's-abbey in Canterbury, is the only writer who has mentioned this extraordinary military manœuvre of his countrymen, it is treated as entirely fabulous. And when it is conſidered that this monk was not born till almoſt two centuries after the arrival of William the Norman, and that ſeveral of the circumſtances related by him are inconſiſtent with the account given of the ſucceſsful invaſion of that monarch by contemporary hiſtorians of credit, the authenticity of ſome of theſe occurrences may well be queſtioned. Perhaps the ſtory ought to be claſſed with many other ſurpriſing unrecorded events that have a contexture of truth and falſhood, the work of many ages, and therefore not to be eaſily unravelled. There is, at leaſt, hardly any room for doubting of the Kentiſh men's having

* High-roads-hill ſeems to have been that, now called Gravel-hill.

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maintained ſome of their immunities with a high hand. For, it is undeniable, that they have enjoyed them inviolate from the conqueſt, though that hoſtile revolution wrought a great change of laws and uſages with regard to the rights of perſon and property in almoſt every other part of the kingdom. The privileges ſo much valued by the men of Kent in general, are diſtinguiſhed by the term Gavelkind; and as theſe pages are principally deſigned for the information and amuſement of ſtrangers to our county, who may have formed miſtaken notions of the nature and extent of what is ſtiled the *Common Law of Kent*, it will not be improper to add a ſummary detail of the chief articles of it. This account will be extracted in great meaſure from the treatiſe on the cuſtoms of Gavelkind, publiſhed in 1741, by Thomas Robinſon, eſq; of Lincoln's-inn, who has with equal ingenuity and learning, inveſtigated and explained this curious ſubject.—Antiquarians have been, and ſtill are, divided in their ſentiments concerning the etymology of the word. As the partibility of the land has, for time immemorial, been deemed an eſſential property of the law of Gavelkind, that expoſition ſhould ſeem to be founded on the moſt probable grounds, which has a reference to the nature of the land in this mode of deſcent. Accordingly ſome ſkilful etymologiſts have deduced it from the Saxon phraſe Gife eal Cyn, or give all kind, or from words of that purport. But other writers of equal eminence in this branch of knowledge, conceiving the term to have originally denoted the nature of the ſervices yielded by the land, have imagined it to be a compound of the word Gavel, which ſignifies rent, or a cuſtomary performance of huſbandry works, and of Gecynde, which means nature, kind, quality, &c. and that the proper interpretation of Gavelkind is therefore, land of that kind or nature that yielded rent, in contradiſtinction to lands holden by a military tenure, which yielded no rent or ſervice, in money, proviſion,

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proviſion, or works of agriculture. This derivation was firſt ſuggeſted by Lambard, afterwards eſpouſed and maintained by Somner, in his elaborate treatiſe of Gavelkind, and is declared by Robinſon "to be the moſt natural and eaſy ac-"count, as doing the leaſt violence to the words, and beſt "ſupported both by reaſon and authority." And yet, if we recollect, that in order to eſtabliſh this opinion, the laſt-mentioned writer is conſtrained to ſurmiſe, "that the partible "quality of the land was rather extrinſic and accidental to "Gavelkind, than neceſſarily comprehended under that "term," notwithſtanding he has repeatedly ſhewn, "its having been admitted, for nobody can trace how long a period, to be "a property abſolutely requiſite and eſſential to the na-"ture of the land,—which of itſelf will conſtitute Gavelkind, "and without which it cannot exiſt," an inquirer muſt remain in a ſtate of ſuſpenſe upon this point till ſome author ſhall ſtart a more happy conjecture.—The joint inheritance of all the ſons to the eſtate of the father is the principal branch of the law of Gavelkind; and if the father outlives a ſon, the portion which ſhould have come to *that* ſon, deſcends to *his* ſons, where there are any, otherwiſe to his daughters. But upon the deceaſe of the father without male iſſue, daughters divide the lands. Nor is the partibility of Gavelkind reſtrained to the right line only: for, all brothers jointly inherit the eſtate of a brother who dies without iſſue; and, agreeably to the rule before noticed reſpecting grandſons and grandaughters, nephews or nieces are entitled, by the right of repreſentation, to the ſhare that would have belonged to their deceaſed father.—The tranſmitting of an equal part of a parent's poſſeſſions to all thoſe who were equally connected with him by the deareſt and moſt tender affections, is a method of diſtribution ſo obvious, ſo impartial, and ſo reaſonable, that one may fairly conclude it to have been an univerſal law, till, by a refined ſcheme of policy, it was judged

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uſeful; or, as ſome think, found neceſſary to raiſe diſtinctions where nature had made none. A proportionate degree of commendation ſeems, however, to be due to thoſe nations who have deviated leaſt from this equitable mode of deſcent. Whether our Britiſh anceſtors, the Welſh, did not give a preference to males has been doubted; but there is a law of Canute which ſtrongly implies, that our Daniſh predeceſſors admitted daughters as well as ſons to an equal ſhare both of the real and perſonal eſtate of their progenitors. As by the cuſtom of Gavelkind, females are excluded where there are males, it is probable that the Saxons were not in this reſpect ſo complaiſant to the fair ſex as the Danes; and ſome rude lawgivers among the former are ſuggeſted to have aſſigned a ſarcaſtic but falſe reaſon for this their partial diſtinction; namely, that the worthieſt of blood were preferred.—It is, however, undeniable, that before, and at the conqueſt, the eldeſt ſon did not inherit to the excluſion of all his brothers. The right of ſole ſucceſſion ſeems to have been introduced at that period from its being better adapted than the diviſible practice of inheritance to that military and tyrannical form of government which king William intended to eſtabliſh. And though the claim of primogeniture was reſiſted with ſucceſs by the men of Kent, the reſt of the kingdom was gradually brought to acquieſce under this Norman encroachment, except in ſome rather inſignificant burghs, and a few particular manors, where the Saxon immunities ſubſiſted by ſpecial indulgence —There is leſs difficulty in refuting the imaginary ſchemes ſaid to have been contrived by the inhabitants of Kent, for preſerving the ancient cuſtom of a partible deſcent, than in ſhewing by what means ſo large and important a diſtrict could well avoid complying with an innovation that ſome powerful and reſolute monarchs had to a degree conſtrained almoſt all their other Engliſh ſubjects to ſubmit to. Various alſo are the cauſes which have been thought to have actuated

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actuated them to perſevere in this ſingular practice.' The following motive mentioned by Mr. Somner, ſeems to be a conjecture the moſt plauſible, and what may be beſt ſupported by experience.—" The Kentiſh men," obſerves this learned author, " the commons there, I mean, like the Londoners, " more careful in thoſe days to maintain their iſſue for " the preſent, than their houſes for the future, were more " tenacious, tender, and retentive of the preſent cuſtom, and " more careful to continue it, than generally thoſe of moſt " other ſhires were; not becauſe, (as ſome give the reaſon) the " younger be as good gentlemen as the elder brethren; (an " argument proper, perchance, for the partible land in Wales;) " but, becauſe it was land, which, by the nature of it, apper- " tained not to the gentry, but to the yeomanry, whoſe " name or houſe they cared not ſo much to uphold by keeping " the inheritance to the elder brother." *Somner on Gavelkind*, p. 89, 90.—" And this account," ſays Mr. Robinſon, "agrees " well with the genius and temper of the people, who, according to Lambard, " in this their eſtate, pleaſe themſelves, " and joy exceedingly; inſomuch, as a man may find ſundry " yeomen (although otherwiſe for wealth comparable with " many of the gentle ſort) that will not for all that change " their condition, nor deſire to be apparelled with the titles " of gentry." *Peramb.* p. 14.—Mr. Camden, in the chapter of the degrees of England prefixed to his Britannia, has remarked, that yeomen are by ſome ſtyled *Ingenui*, a word not tranſlated by the right reverend editor of that valuable work, poſſibly from his not recollecting any Engliſh word ſynonimous to yeoman. Whether "gentleman like" gives the full meaning of the term, or whether, "a little gentleman," which is Dr. Johnſon's definition * of a rich Franklin in the Wild of Kent, is a more apt and forcible expreſſion, ſhall be ſubmited to the opinion of the reader. Thus far is clear, that a

* In Shakeſpeare's firſt part of king Henry IV.

yeoman

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yeoman was not ſuppoſed to be liable to any baſe or menial ſervice; and by a ſtatute of the 2d of Henry IV. a yeoman was prohibited taking or wearing the livery of any lord upon pain of impriſonment, or a fine at the king's pleaſure. According to Sir Thomas Smith, who was ſecretary of ſtate to king Edward VI. a yeoman was in his time, a freeborn Engliſhman, who could "diſpend of his own free lands in yearly "revenue to the ſum of forty ſhillings:" and this was the annual income of a freehold eſtate; by which, the law long denoted a free and lawful man; becauſe, whoever was poſſeſſed of it might, from the 21ſt of Edward I. to the 27th of Elizabeth ſerve upon a jury; and ever ſince the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. this has been the proper qualification to vote at the election of knights of the ſhire. It is highly probable, that this order of the people was formerly more numerous in Kent than in other counties, as well from the general partible quality of the land in this diſtrict, as, that the tenants of the land in Gavelkind, were not ſo much ſubject here, as in other parts of the kingdom to the controul of lords of manors, by copyhold, or any more rigid cuſtomary tenure. Freeholder and not yeoman, is, however, at preſent, the moſt common term and for an obvious reaſon. When yeoman is uſed, it generally conveys to the hearer, at leaſt to the ears of an old Kentiſh man, the idea of a wealthy man who occupies a large parcel of arable or grazing land, together with his own free eſtate. There are many in Kent who may be brought under this claſs, and who ſtill diſcover the ſame free ſpirit and firmneſs that diſtinguiſhed the yeomen of former ages. They are likewiſe very frequently guided in the voluntary diſpoſal of their fortunes by that golden rule of equity which is the fundamental principle of Gavelkind, in order to ſecure to all their children the ſame independency which they have enjoyed themſelves. In one reſpect indeed, they muſt be allowed to have deviated from the maxims and practices of

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their anceſtors; as they have not the like ſtrong antipathy to being "apparelled with the ſtile of the gentle ſort." The plain homely term of yeoman is often dropt, and in the room of it, is ſubſtituted the title of a gentleman farmer.

So predominant is Gavelkind in Kent, that all lands are preſumed to be ſubject to that uſage till the contrary is proved; and formerly, ſuch lands only were exempted from it, as were holden by knight's ſervice. Our kings anciently exerciſed a prerogative of thus changing the cuſtomary deſcent together with the tenure; nor was this a power inſeparably incident to the crown, but ſometimes delegated to others, and particularly by king John in the third year of his reign to archbiſhop Hubert and his ſucceſſors, for lands holden of the ſee of Canterbury. Contrary interpretations, were indeed at different times put upon this charter; but, ſuch was the generally accounted effect of the alteration of the tenure under this licence, that the Gavelkind lands ſo converted into military fees became from thenceforth deſcendible to the eldeſt ſon only.—The legiſlative authority alone can now over-rule the cuſtom of an equal partition among the ſons, and ſeveral acts of parliament have been made to ſet it aſide. The firſt of theſe laws was paſſed in the reign of Henry VII. at the requeſt of Sir Richard Guldeford, and in the 15th of king Henry VIII. Another ſtatute was obtained by Sir Henry Wiat In the 31ſt year of the ſame prince the lands of thirty-four noblemen and gentlemen were thus diſgavelled; and, by a ſtatute of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. the ſame liberty was allowed to twelve of thoſe named in the laſt-mentioned act, and to thirty other perſons. The lands of three gentlemen only were diſgavelled by parliament in the reign of Elizabeth, and of the ſame number in that of her ſucceſſor; nor has Mr. Robinſon noticed any act of a later date than the firſt year of king James's acceſſion to the crown.—Gavelkind was ſo general in Kent, that in a ſtatute of 18 of Henry VI.

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VI. it is expreſsly declared, that "well nigh all the county "was of that tenure;" and though the quantity of lands exempted from this partible property was much increaſed by the ſeveral diſgavelling ſtatutes, yet, as Mr. Robinſon remarks, the difficulty is ſo great, either of ſhewing what eſtates were formerly held by military tenure, or of pointing out the lands, of which the perſons named in thoſe acts were reſpectively ſeized at the time of their being paſſed, that he believed he ſhould not be miſtaken, were he to aſſert, that there is now as much land in the county ſubject to the controul of this cuſtom, as there was before the enacting of the diſgavelling laws. And this is a difficulty that muſt daily encreaſe, and which can rarely be obviated without incurring a large expence. Thus feeble and uncertain have been all former attempts to cancel a uſage that has the ſeal of antiquity preſſed upon it, and which is certainly founded upon a principle of juſtice and equity; nor does there ſeem to be any material detriment likely to ariſe from a continuance of it, becauſe the tenants in Gavelkind may make ſettlements, and now have under the ſtatute of deviſes an indiſputable power of diſpoſing of their eſtates by will, as the exigencies of their family affairs may require, which was formerly a matter of doubt.—In the opinion of the very learned commentator on the laws of England, the equal diviſion of lands among all the males is a practice really inconvenient, and more eſpecially deſtructive to ancient families; but poſſibly, if a cloſe inquiry were made into the deſcents and variations of the lands that have been diſgavelled by parliament, it might be diſcovered that the aim of the perſons, who, under the influence of this notion, ſolicited the privilege, was ſoon rendered abortive; and that, in fact their whole eſtates paſſed into different families ſooner than they would have done, had not all the younger brothers been excluded from partaking of any part of them. This might be

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the caſe with Sir Thomas Cheney, whoſe name occurs in the ſtatutes of 31 Hen. VIII. and of 2 and 3 of Edw. VI. There can be no doubt that his view was to ſecure in his family the very large real property he enjoyed in this county, and yet, ſo far was his ſon from perpetuating the honour of his father's houſe to future ages, by this acquiſition of fortune, that, if Phillipot is not miſtaken, Henry lord Cheney, reduced himſelf by his boundleſs diſſipation and extravagance to a neceſſity of ſelling almoſt all the eſtates very early in the reign of queen Elizabeth.—Thomas Cromwell, earl of Eſſex, the active, faithful, and unfortunate miniſter of Henry VIII. is the firſt name on the liſt of thoſe perſons whoſe eſtates were diſgavelled by the ſtatute of the 31ſt of that king; nor is it unlikely that the act was the more eaſily obtained thro' the influence of a powerful premier, at that time in high favour with his ſovereign, but who, a very few months after, fell a ſacrifice to the paſſions of his capricious and arbitrary maſter. It is well known that this able ſtateſman was of a very mean extraction. His ſucceſs in life prompted him to endeavour to ſupport the dignity of the ſtem which was to ſpring from his ennobled root; but he had the mortification of feeling that "root nipped by a killing froſt, and to ſee the tender "leaves of his hopes fall." For being, without the form of a trial, attainted of high treaſon, all his lands were forfeited to the crown, and he ſuffered upon the ſcaffold. And tho' the king, poſſibly from a conſciouſneſs of his harſh and injurious treatment of the father, created the ſon a peer, he never reſtored to him any part of the Kentiſh eſtate. According to Harris, the earl was, at the time of his attainder, poſſeſſed of the manors of Goldſtone in Aſh, near Sandwich, of Northcray and Rokeſly, then diſtinct pariſhes, but not long after united, and of Wallingherſt and Buckherſt in Frittenden; it can therefore be no difficult matter to prove that theſe manors are by act of parliament exempted from that fundamental

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mental rule of Gavelkind law,—the right of all the ſons to inherit equal portions of the father's lands.

Poets have rarely exerciſed their talents upon a law theſis; but Gavelkind has been honoured with a bard to celebrate its praiſes. His name was Hawke, and from his choice of the ſubject he may be reaſonably ſuppoſed to have been a native of Kent. The branch of the cuſtom of Gavelkind already ſtated he has deſcribed in the following lines; and though the traditionary account of the moving wood at Swanſcombe, as a mere Canterbury tale, may be unworthy to be recorded by the hiſtoric muſe, the author certainly did not tranſgreſs a poetical licence in adopting it.

Cuſtom in Kent encouraging the brave,
Diſtinguiſh'd well the brother from the ſlave;
And to each ſon an equal fortune gave.

With juſt regard,—ſince the ſame am'rous fire,
Caus'd the laſt birth, that did the firſt inſpire.
The gen'rous youth, pleas'd with ſuch equal laws,
Fought for their honour, and their country's cauſe,
With ſuch reſiſtance, that the French brigade
Which conquer'd Harold, durſt not Kent invade;
But ſolemn peace with oaken ſquadrons made;
Granted thoſe laws for which the patriots ſtrove,
And kiſs'd the goſpel to the moving grove*.

The diſgavelling acts of parliament before referred to, diveſted the lands in Kent of their partible property only, with-

* It is rather unlucky for our Kentiſh poet, that this account of the oaken ſquadrons of his countrymen marching in battle array at Swanſcombe can hardly fail of recalling to the memory of his readers, the moving of

"Great Birnam-wood to Dunſinane's high hill,"

as foretold by the wayward ſifters to Macbeth, and deſcribed with the magic pen of the Warwickſhire bard.

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out in the leaſt affecting any of the other qualities incident to them, becauſe not expreſsly altered by the letter of the law: for elſe, inſtead of a benefit which the acts intended (they being made on the petition of the perſons named in them) the owners of Gavelkind lands would ſuffer a great prejudice by the loſs of their former privileges. Theſe latter are ſtyled ſpecial or collateral cuſtoms, in order to diſtinguiſh them from the general one of partibility which is eſſential to an eſtate in Gavelkind. Of theſe ſpecial properties, one is, that lands in Kent do not eſcheat to the king, or other Lord of whom they are holden, in caſe of a conviction and execution for felony. But the heir of a tenant in Gavelkind, notwithſtanding the offence of his anceſtor, ſhall enter immediately, and enjoy the lands by deſcent after the ſame cuſtoms and ſervices, by which they were before holden. This peculiar immunity is compriſed in the old ſignificant, tho' vulgar proverb,

The father to the bough,
And the ſon to the plough.

Or, as it is ſomewhat differently expreſſed in a manuſcript copy of the cuſtoms of Kent in Lincoln's-inn library,

The fader to the bonde,
And the ſon to the londe.

This privilege does not, however, extend to treaſon, for, if a perſon be any way attainted of this high offence, his Gavelkind lands, notwithſtanding the uſage, are forfeited to the crown. Nor are his heirs entitled to it, if their anceſtor, being indicted for a felony, becomes an outlaw by abſconding; and, in the times of popery, if the tenant had taken refuge in ſome conſecrated place, and abjured the realm, the immunity ceaſed. Before an offender could avail himſelf of the plea of ſanctuary, he was obliged to make a full confeſſion

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confeſſion of the crime laid to his charge, and flight always carries with it a ſtrong preſumption of guilt. There being then in both theſe inſtances, an endeavour to interrupt, if not ſuppreſs the legal courſe of juſtice, it was judged neceſſary that the offenders ſhould be rendered incapable of tranſmitting their property by the law of a country which they had openly or tacitly renounced.—By the like cuſtom, a wife's dower in lands of the nature of Gavelkind is in no caſe forfeitable for the felony of her huſband, but where the heir would be debarred of his inheritance. Anciently this was a privilege almoſt peculiar to the widows of tenants in gavelkind; nor was the ſeverity of the common law mitigated in this particular, till the firſt year of the reign of Edward VI. when a ſtatute was paſſed, allowing every wife her dower, notwithſtanding her huſband's having been attainted of felony. —In the proportion of the lands, or of the rent thereof, aſſigned for dower, there ever was, and ſtill is, a material difference between ſuch as are Gavelkind, and thoſe which are not within that rule. By the common law, a widow has a right to a third part only of her huſband's real property; but by the law of Gavelkind, a moiety is due of all the eſtates poſſeſſed by the huſband at the marriage, and at any time during the coverture.—There is, however, one diſadvantage incident to dower in Gavelkind, to which the dowrys of lands holden under many other tenures are not ſubject; namely; that a tenant of the former does not enjoy it abſolutely for life, but only as long as ſhe continues unmarried and chaſte. Some years ago a very circumſtantial proof of incontinency was required; and, before a forfeiture of dower could be incurred, it was neceſſary to attaint a widow of childbirth after the ancient uſage, which is thus ſet forth in Lambard's tranſlation of a manuſcript in French, entitled, The Cuſtumal of Kent,—" that if, when ſhe is delivered of a " child, the infant be heard cry, and that the hue and cry

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" be raiſed, and the country be aſſembled, and have the " view of the child ſo born, and of the mother, then let her " loſe her dower wholly, and otherwiſe not, ſo long as ſhe " holdeth her a widow; whereof, it is ſaid in Kentiſh,——

" He that doth wende her, let him lende her*."

At preſent, however, without producing evidence of this caſual effects of a breach of chaſtity, a widow in Gavelkind may be deprived of her dower; it is ſufficient to ſhew that ſhe has been caught tripping. But whilſt a greater latitude was allowed, attempts ſeem to have been frequently made to avoid a detection by the widow's withdrawing to lie-in at ſome remote place; and particularly in the reign of Edward III. Roberge, late wife of John at Combe, is upon record for averring that ſhe ought to retain her dower, becauſe her ſpurious babe was not heard to cry within the four walls of any of the tenements of which ſhe was endowed. Whether this ingenious evaſion was contrived by the faulty defendant, or ſuggeſted to her by a ſhrewd lawyer is not mentioned; but it appears that the jury would not admit of the validity of the plea, leſt the condition ſhould be generally rendered of very little effect. The heir to the eſtate not having, however, raiſed the county by hue and cry within the limitted time, the notable dame had, thro' his neglect, a verdict in her favour. This cuſtom, which is by ſome writers ſtiled the Kentiſh widow's free-bench, is of that kind of tenure, which lord Coke humouroufly obſerves to be the moſt frail and ſlippery of any in England; and it can hardly have eſcaped the readers attention that it is a more rigorous rule than the free-bench of the manors of eaſt and weſt Enborne in Berk:†;

* In two other copies of the Cuſtumal, we meet with a different reading of this proverb.—In one it is, Sey is wedne, ſey is levedne.—In the other, Seye is wedne, ſeye is lenedy.

† Spectator, No. 623.

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because in these, widows after a default, may recover their land again, by the benefit of the black ram. As the tenants in dower of Gavelkind must incur an irreversible forfeiture of it by entering a second time into the happy state, it cannot be matter of surprize that many of them should have been sollicitous to be permitted to accept of the third part of the land for life under the common law, instead of the half, subject to such an unreasonable and cruel restriction; but the customary condition in Kent being judged to be for the benefit of the heir to the estate, all these attempts to wave the moiety have failed.—There is a notorious partiality in the different terms of restraint imposed by the Gavelkind law upon the two sexes. A widow must keep herself not only sole but chaste, or she loses her dower; but a widower, if he has a sufficient degree of resolution to avoid forming a second matrimonial connection, may, without possessing the gift of continence, remain, by the courtesy of Kent, a tenant to half of the lands that belonged to his deceased wife.—This distinction with respect to the same sort of tenure was probably settled by our Saxon ancestors in the Wittena Gemot, or meeting of their wise men: but had the wise women of that age been present at their deliberations, and not churlishly debarred the proper use of their natural power of speech, they might, possibly with success, have remonstrated against the want of equity in the decision of this assembly. These sage legislators would surely have found it extremely difficult to assign a plausible reason why the free-bench of both male and female relicts should not be alike forfeitable for a similar offence; and why, upon a rumour of an increase of family, in a widower's tenement of the nature of Gavelkind, the country should not be raised by hue and cry, and an inquisition made by a jury of discreet matrons, whether master or man were the father of the little puling stranger.—Another distinguishing property of Gavelkind is, that the tenant is of sufficient age

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to alien his eſtate at the age of fifteen years, but it muſt be by feoffment, that being a method of conveyance of all others the moſt proper, when there may be any ſuſpicion of fraud and impoſition. This privilege makes the tenant ſome compenſation for his being kept in ward one year longer than is permitted by the courſe of the common law; and infants in Gavelkind always enjoyed ſome advantageous immunities formerly denied to other perſons during their minority.—In the Cuſtumal of Kent, the noble uſage claimed in behalf of wards is expreſſed in the following terms.—"And if the "heir or heirs ſhall be under the age of fifteen years, let the "nutriture be committed by the lord to the next of the "blood to whom the inheritance cannot deſcend, ſo that the "lord take nothing for the committing thereof. And let not "an heir be married by the lord, but by his own will, and "by the advice of his friends, if he will.—And when ſuch "heir, or heirs, ſhall come to the full age of fifteen years, let "their lands and tenements be delivered unto them, toge-"ther with their goods, and with the profits of the ſame "lands remaining above their reaſonable ſuſtenance: of the "which profits and goods, let him be bound to make anſwer "which hath the education of the heir, or elſe the lord, or "his heirs, which committed the ſame education."—The invaluable benefits of theſe privileges cannot be more clearly ſhewn than by contraſting with them the burdens of the military tenure, which are thus repreſented by the learned author of the commentary on the laws of England*.—"The heir," remarks Sir William Blackſtone, "on the death of his anceſ-"tor, if of full age, was plundered of the emoluments a-"riſing from his inheritance, by way of *relief* and *primer* "*ſeiſin*; and, if under age, of the whole of his eſtate during "infancy." And then, as Sir Thomas Smith very feelingly complains†, *when he came to his own, after he was out of ward-*

* Book ii. c. 5. † Commonw. l. iii. c. 5.

ſhip,

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ſhip, his woods decayed, houſes fallen down, ſtock waſted and gone, lands let forth and ploughed to be barren: "to make amends, he "was yet to pay half a years profits as a fine for ſuing out "his livery; and alſo the price or value of his marriage, if he "refuſed ſuch wife as his lord and guardian had bartered for, "and impoſed upon him; or twice that value, if he married "another woman.—And when by theſe deductions this fortune was ſo ſhattered and ruined, that perhaps he was obliged "to ſell his patrimony, he had not even that poor privilege "allowed him, without paying an exorbitant fine for a *licence* "of *alienation*."—Thus rigorous and oppreſſive were the conditions of knight or military ſervice, a tenure which almoſt univerſally prevailed throughout England from the times of the Norman princes to the middle of the laſt century. For though ſome of the grievances of that feodal ſyſtem were occaſionally mitigated by different acts of parliament, they were not all aboliſhed by the legiſlature, till the 12th of king Charles II. It cannot then be denied that the men of Kent in former ages deſerve great commendation from their poſterity for their ſpirited conduct, in preſerving their eſtates from a mode of ſervitude ſo complicated and diffuſive, however honourable it might be eſteemed.—But their attention and firmneſs was not confined to the ſecuring of the rights of the proprietors of land in Gavelkind only, they likewiſe maintained an old claim highly favourable to Kentiſh men in general.—"That "all the bodies of Kentiſh men be free, as well as the other "free bodies of England," is the firſt article of the Cuſtumal. This privilege extended to every native of the county, and to their children; and a glorious and valuable immunity it muſt be allowed to have been, at a period when many people in the kingdom were held in an hereditary ſtate of bondage; when the lords of manors exerted a legal power of claiming, recovering, and transferring the perſons of villeins, as well as their horſes and their oxen.

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In ſpecifying ſeveral of the peculiar uſages of the county of Kent, there is another privilege which redounds ſo much to the honour of its ancient inhabitants, that it ought not to be paſſed by unnoticed; namely, their well founded pretenſion to be placed in the vanguard of the king's army. This poſt of hazardous pre-eminence and glory is agreed to have been aſſigned to them as a reward of the ſignal courage and ſteadineſs they ſhewed in various conflicts with the Danes. The diſcontinuance of the old method of drawing out the military forces of England according to their counties, has occaſioned a long ſuſpenſion of the exerciſe of this right of the men of Kent. But as a national militia is again eſtabliſhed, and this uſeful corps of men are now liable to be embodied, and moved into any part of the kingdom, not only when there is an eminent danger of an invaſion, but in caſe of the breaking out of a rebellion in the moſt diſtant quarter of the Britiſh dominions, they may be frequently called forth upon ſervice with other troops. It cannot, therefore, be improper to hint, that the two Kentiſh battalions have a preſcriptive claim to a precedency of the other regiments of militia. Should they, however, take the field with the regulars, they will not probably be permitted to fix their tents, and diſplay their Kentiſh grey-coloured enſign with a white horſe rampant in the center of it (the arms of the Saxon kings of Kent) upon the right of the encampment; becauſe, by a clauſe in one of the acts for regulating the militia, it is directed that the officers of it ſhall, during the time of their being embodied, rank with the officers of his majeſty's other forces of equal degree with them, "as the youngeſt of their "rank."

At the end of his treatiſe of the law of Gavelkind, Mr. Robinſon has remarked, that it is on account of the two laſt-mentioned

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mentioned privileges the poet Drayton beſtows this honourable elogium on the county.

Of all the Engliſh ſhires be thou ſirnamed the free,
And foremoſt ever placed, when they ſhall reckon'd be.

This detail of the cuſtoms of the men of Kent ſhall be concluded with a few elegant verſes relating to them, in the peruſal of which even thoſe travellers cannot avoid receiving pleaſure, to whom the digreſſion from their tour may have appeared tedious and unentertaining. The lines are inſcribed upon the walls of the root-houſe in the grounds of lord Amherſt, baron of Holmeſdale, at his ſeat called Montreal near Sevenoake, and are ſaid to have been written by a lady.

While neighb'ring heights aſſume the name,
Of conquer'd lands well known to fame,
Here mark the valley's winding way,
And liſt to what old records ſay.
" *This winding vale of Holm'ſdale*
" *Was never won, nor ever ſhale.*"
The prophecy ne'er yet has fail'd,
No human power has e'er prevail'd
To rob this valley of its rights,
Supported by its valourous wights.
When foreign conqueſt claim'd our land,
Then roſe our ſturdy Holm'ſdale band
With each a brother oak in hand;
An armed grove the conqu'ror meet,
And for their ancient charter treat,
Reſolv'd to die, e'er they reſign'd
Their liberties in Gavelkind.
Hence freedom's ſons inhabit here,
And hence the world their deeds revere.
In war and every virtuous way,
A *Man of Kent* ſtill bears the day.

Thus

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Thus may our queen of valleys reign,
While *Darent* glides into the main.
Darent, whoſe infant reed is ſeen,
Uprearing on yon boſom'd green!
Along his wid'ning banks may peace,
And joyful plenty never ceaſe!
Where'er his waters roll their tide,
May heav'n-born liberty reſide.

In the progreſs of this tour Northfleet is the pariſh contiguous to Swanſcombe, but between the hills upon which theſe two places are ſituated, there is a vale that has ſome claim to the travellers notice. A curſory view of this tract of marſh land will convince him, that here might formerly have been an inlet to the Thames, and he will, therefore, be inclined to admit, as a very probable opinion, that there was once a channel thro' it navigable for veſſels of ſome burden. In the account of the Roman road (page 36), ſome notice was taken of the traditionary report of the Danes having, in their ſhips, proceeded up this valley as far as a place called Spring-head* in Southfleet It may be further obſerved that the termination *Fleet* forcibly implies the waters having flowed within the limits of this pariſh, and the church of Southfleet having been dedicated to Nicholas, the tutelar ſaint of mariners and fiſhermen, adds weight to this notion. At preſent there is only a rivulet that empties itſelf into the Thames, over which a ſtone bridge was erected many years ago. But it being very inconveniently placed with reſpect to the hill

* When a ſtrong tide flowed up this valley, the paſſage over the water muſt have been always troubleſome, and ſometimes hazardous; and this will partly account for the Romans having carried the Watling-ſtreet a little beyond Spring-head. But, after the channel at the bottom of Northfleet-hill became more eaſily fordable by the decreaſe of the Æſtuary, it might be thought adviſable to deviate thus far from the ancient road.

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on the oppoſite ſide, a new brick arch was not long ſince turned over the ſtream. The road was at the ſame time greatly improved, and the aſcent to Northfleet rendered much eaſier. Near the ſummit of the hill a road leads towards the Thames, which will conduct the traveller to the pleaſantly ſituated ſeats of William Webber, and Francis Wadman, eſqrs; the latter of which was, for ſeveral years, the conſtant reſidence of the late Thomas Chiffinch, eſq;

The village of Northfleet is ſituated between the twentieth and twenty-firſt mile ſtones; but, tho' recorded in doomſday book, does not appear to have been more conſiderable than it is at preſent. The church of this place is uncommonly large, and contains fragments of monuments as ancient as the fourteenth century. On the north wall is a beautiful alabaſter monument to the memory of Edward Browne, who reſided at Ingreſs, and lies interred in this church; he was phyſician to Charles II. and eminent for his ſkill in natural hiſtory, as appears from his travels which he publiſhed in 1685. The preſent ſteeple was erected in 1717, and commands as extended and beautifully diverſified a proſpect, as perhaps can be met with in any part of the road. This pariſh is well known and long diſtinguiſhed on account of the vaſt quantities of lime which are burnt here; and indeed, in a great meaſure, ſupplies the builders in London, as well as the adjacent parts, with this neceſſary article; ſo that by means of the grounds, which in proceſs of time have been cut away in different directions for this purpoſe, a ſcene is exhibited perfectly romantic, and to ſtrangers not a little dreadful. In the progreſs of this buſineſs, numerous foſſils are dug up and diſcovered, principally of the echinus ſpecies, ſuch as nipples, pencils, &c. as alſo the gloſſe-petra, or ſhark's tooth, moſt curiouſly poliſhed and ſharp as thorns; theſe are often collected by naturaliſts, at an inconſiderable expence, as they are chiefly the property of the chalk-cutters, and other labourers.

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bourers. But what is much more remarkable, in the flint ſtones, whereof there are frequent ſtrata, and which are here wrought up into flints for guns, &c. complete cockle-ſhells filled with chalk are found, and ſometimes of ſo large a ſize, as to be eſteemed of great curioſity by perſons fond of this part of natural philoſophy.

But before the traveller paſſes the leather-bottle it may not be amiſs to apprize him, that, if he will look down the wide road on his right that leads to Southfleet, he may catch a view of the tower of that church. This pariſh was formerly inhabited by ſeveral perſons of large eſtates. Some of the old family ſeats have been taken down within memory, and other venerable manſions are converted into farm-houſes. The biſhops of Rocheſter were poſſeſſed of the manor of Southfleet before the conqueſt. One of the prelates ſettled it on the priory of his cathedral, and it belonged to that religious houſe at the time of its diſſolution. The liberty of the biſhops of that ſee always claimed here, and, as not unuſual in ancient times, the court of Southfleet had a power of trying and executing felons. This juriſdiction extended not only to acts of felony done within the vill, but alſo over criminals apprehended there, tho' the fact had been committed in another county. An inſtance of the exerciſe of this claim in the year 1200 is mentioned by T. Blunt, in his ancient tenures and cuſtoms of manors. It was of two women who had ſtolen ſome clothes in Croindene (ſuppoſed to be Croyden in Surry) and the men of that place having purſued them to Southfleet, they were there ſeized, impriſoned, and tried by the lord Henry de Cobham, and many other diſcreet men of the country; who adjudged them to undergo the fire ordeal, or examination of the hot iron. By this fooliſh and impious teſt of innocence, one of them was exculpated; and the other condemned, and afterwards drowned in a pond called Bike-pool. The two chief ſpecies of trial by ordeal, were thoſe of

fire

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fire and water, the former, being in the opinion of ſome learned writers, confined to perſons of high rank, and the latter only uſed for the common people. But if the caſe of the two female thieves at Southfleet be truly related, it is rather probable that this diſtinction was not ſtrictly obſerved. Both theſe modes might be performed by deputy; but the principal was to anſwer for the ſucceſs of the trial: the deputy only venturing ſome corporal pain, for hire, or perhaps for friendſhip. "This," obſerves the author of the Commentary on the Laws of England, (book iv. c. 27.) "is ſtill "expreſſed in that common form of ſpeech, of going thro' "fire and water to ſerve another." Fire ordeal was performed either by taking up in the hand, unhurt, a piece of red-hot iron, of one, two, or three pounds weight; or elſe by walking bare-foot, and blindfold, over nine red-hot ploughſhears, laid lengthways, at unequal diſtances; and if the party eſcaped being hurt, he was adjudged innocent; but, if it happened otherwiſe, he was then condemned as guilty. No doubt, there was generally a colluſion in this and every mode of trial, of this nature; but the guilty, eſpecially if rich, had a much greater chance of being cleared than the innocent, as the former would be much more apt to have recourſe to artifice than the latter.—Water ordeal was performed, either by thruſting the bare arm into boiling water as high as the elbow, and if the perſon was not ſcalded he was pronounced innocent; or, the accuſed perſon was thrown with a rope about the waſte into a river or pond of cold water; if he ſunk, he was acquitted, but if he floated therein with any action of ſwimming, it was a ſufficient proof of criminality, becauſe they judiciouſly concluded, the pure water would not admit a guilty wretch into it. The traditional relics of the water-ordeal may be eaſily traced out in the ignorant barbarity ſtill practiſed to diſcover witches, by caſt-

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ing them into a pool of water, and drowning them to prove their innocence.

In the conſiſtorial acts of the dioceſe of Rocheſter under the year 1585, there is a curious entry of a preſentment of defamation againſt two men of Deptford, for reporting three women of that pariſh to be witches, and the reaſon they gave for thinking them to be ſo, was, "that either of them kept a "monſtrous tode." The judge who preſided does not appear to have been entirely ſatisfied that this was of itſelf a competent proof of the offence; but as one of the dames was not only "ſomewhat ſuſpected of witchcraft," but alſo accuſed of being a notable ſcold, which might probably be very true, tho' ſhe denied the charge, ſhe was ordered to appear on the next court day, with ſix good women for her compurgators, and likewiſe admoniſhed to reſort to the miniſter every Sunday or holiday, to teſtify her faith.

Having paſſed the twenty-firſt mile ſtone, in a vale on the right, the traveller will diſcern a ſeat with an area on its top encompaſſed with a baluſtrade, named Wombwell-hall, or Wimbell-hall, from Thomas Wombwell, who, in the year 1471, erected here a ſtately manſion; but the preſent edifice was built in 1663, by James Fortrye, eſq; in whoſe family this eſtate long continued; and, to ſeveral of whoſe memories there are monuments erected in the church of Northfleet, the parochial diſtrict in which this houſe is ſituated: it is at preſent inhabited by Mr. Phillips.—Near the twenty-ſecond ſtone, is a direction-poſt on the left, pointing out the road, of half a mile in length which leads to Graveſend; but, before we take a ſurvey of what may be worthy attention in that town, it will be needful to apprize ſuch as ſhall purſue the direct road towards Rocheſter, that, 'ere they reach the twenty-third ſtone, on a ſmall riſe to the left of the road, is the manor-houſe of Parrocks, which anciently had an owner of that name; for, to Robert de

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de Parrock, in whose possession it then was, are the inhabitants of Gravesend indebted for the first grant of a market, which he obtained from king Henry III. in the 52d year of that prince's reign. This manor was frequently in possession of the crown; and, by Richard II. was given to the abbey of St. Mary le Grace on Tower-hill; but, since the suppression of that religious community, it has been held by different families; and is now the property of Richard Cosens, esq;—At a small distance, and at the bottom of a verdant slope, is the neat and newly erected mansion of the manor of Milton, which at different periods was in the possession of Sir Henry Wyat, the lord Cobham, and other illustrious noblemen of this county, but is now the property of George Vaughan, esq;

Gravesend, by its situation on the banks of the Thames, and being the first port in that river, is advantageously placed for trade; it is distant twenty-two miles from London, seven from Dartford, and the like number from Rochester. The parishes of Gravesend and Milton were incorporated in the 10th year of queen Elizabeth, and are governed by a mayor, twelve jurats, and twenty-four common-councilmen. Gravesend has a market every Wednesday and Saturday; and a fair on the 23d of April and 24th of October. The manor of Gravesend being in possession of the abbot of Tower-hill, and "he being "willing," as Harris relates, "to promote the interest of the "Town; obtained of king Richard II. a grant to the men of "Gravesend and Milton of the exclusive privilege of convey-"ing passengers from thence to London, on the conditions "that they should provide boats on purpose, and carry all "persons, either at two-pence per head with his bundle, or "the whole boats fare should be four shillings." This charter has been confirmed by succeeding princes, and under proper regulations they still enjoy this advantageous privilege. The fare is now nine-pence each passenger. The boats are large and

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commodious, and much improved within theſe few years; they are obliged to depart on the ringing of a bell a quarter of an hour; they go to London with every flood, and return from Billingſgate on the like ſignal with every ebb. Coaches attend the arrival of the boats to convey paſſengers to Rocheſter, Chatham, &c. at 1s. 6d. each.—In the year 1380 this town was burnt, and ſeveral of the inhabitants carried away by the French and Spaniards, who came up the Thames in row-gallies. For its better ſecurity, Henry VIII. raiſed a platform of guns to the eaſt of the town, and erected a fort directly oppoſite, at Tilbury on the Eſſex ſhore, which is a regular fortification, has a battery commanding the river mounted with above one hundred pieces of cannon, carrying balls from 24 to 46 lb weight.

Queen Elizabeth ordered the lord mayor of London, the aldermen, and all the companies, to receive all eminent ſtrangers and ambaſſadors at Graveſend in their formalities; and attend them to London in their barges, if they went by water; if they went by land, they were to meet them on horſeback, in their gowns, on Blackheath.—In the year 1727 the church and great part of the town were conſumed by fire. Soon after this diſaſter, the preſent elegant ſtructure for divine worſhip was erected; towards the expence of which, king George II. contributed liberally.—The town-houſe, where all public buſineſs is tranſacted, is ſituated near the middle of the high-ſtreet on the eaſt ſide, it was erected in 1764, and is an ornament to the town.—In 1772 the inhabitants with great public ſpirit applied to the legiſlature for, and obtained an act for new paving and lighting the ſtreets; to this act they owe their preſent commodious and agreeable appearance.—All outward bound ſhips are obliged to caſt anchor before the town, till they have been examined by, and obtained proper clearances from ſearchers appointed for that purpoſe,

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purpoſe, who have an office near the town key: a centinel is alſo ſtationed at the block-houſe below the town to give notice by the firing of a muſket when ſhips are coming up the river, who are obliged to receive on board officers from the cuſtoms, a number of which are conſtantly waiting here for that purpoſe.— The gardens round this town are ſo rich, that they not only ſupply the ſhipping with every article of that kind they ſtand in need of, but ſend great quantities to London; the aſparagus in particular is remarkably excellent.— The town is alſo well ſupplied with fiſh.

The remains of an ancient chapel which belonged to the nuns of Grace, is the only object in this diſtrict that wears the face of antiquity; ſome thick walls and gothic arches are intire, and a receptacle for holy water ſtill to be ſeen in the cellar, proves this ſtructure to have been appropriated to religious uſes. A tavern now occupies the ſpot where this ſacred edifice once ſtood; adjoining to which is a bowling green commanding a delightful proſpect of that part of the Thames ſtyled the Hope, with ſeveral miles beyond it. The chalky cliffs which riſe perpendicular on the Kentiſh ſhore, with the more diſtant view of the Eſſex hills on the oppoſite ſide adds greatly to the beauty of the proſpect.

Milton church is ſituated at the end of an agreeable enclofed walk to the eaſt of the town. The attention which the pariſhioners have for ſome years paſt paid both to the preſervation and decent appearance of this edifice is deſerving of commendation. Over the porch, and cloſe to the road leading from Graveſend to Rocheſter, they have lately erected a ſouth dial, weſt eight degrees, with its furniture; conſtructed by Mr. Giles, maſter of Graveſend free-ſchool. A conciſe deſcription of the various lines on which, may not be unacceptable.

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The curve lines (which are conical ſections) that run acroſs the dial, are called parallels of the length of the day, and are eleven in number; the uppermoſt is the tropic of Capricorn, and is marked at both ends with its proper character. The others next below, are numbered 8, 9, 10, 11, and that with 12 is the equinoctial line, and has at one end, the ſign of Aries, at the other end the ſign Libra. The other lines below theſe are marked 13, 14, 15, 16; and the lowermoſt line is the tropic of Cancer, diſtinguiſhed at both ends with its proper character.—By the ſhadow of a ſmall ball which is fixed on the ſtile called nodus, the ſeveral length of days are pointed out; as for example, when the ſhadow of the ball falls on the upper line, the day is the ſhorteſt; when it falls on the next lower line, marked 8, the day is eight hours long; when on the line, marked 9, the day is nine hours long; and ſo of the reſt: and when the ſhadow of the ball arrives at the lowermoſt line, the day is the longeſt.—The vertical, or upright lines, are called azimuth lines, and are mark'd at the bottom with the letters that denote the points of the compaſs; ſo that when the ſhadow of the ball falls on any one of theſe lines, it ſhews the ſun is upon *that* point of the compaſs, which the letters denote, that correſpond with the line.

Beyond the 24th ſtone on the left is Chalk church, ſuppoſed originally to have been much larger; over the entrance is ſome very prepoſterous figures: within, is little remarkable, except a monument erected to the memory of William Martin, with an inſcription on a braſs plate denoting he died May 16, 1416.

After paſſing through Chalk turnpike, the road on the right-hand leads to Higham, Cliffe, Cowling, and into the hundred of Hoo, which is the narrow tract of land ſituated between the Thames and Medway. Some etymologiſts conjecture it to have taken its name from the Saxon word *ho, or hob*, which

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which ſignifies ſometimes a heel, and ſometimes the ham of the leg (whence the word *hough*, to hough or hamſtring) becauſe it runs out into a kind of a point like a heel, or lies in a bend between the two rivers, like a ham. Hollingſhed the hiſtorian, who was a Kentiſh man, has obſerved, according to Harris, that Hoo, in his time, was nearly an iſland; and of the hundred of Hoo, he ſaid the people had this proverbial rhime.

" He that rideth in the hundred of Hoo,
" Beſides pilfering ſeamen, ſhall find dirt enow."

Higham was anciently called Lille-cherche, but this latter name was diſcontinued in the reign of Edward I. In this pariſh there was for many years a community of Benedictine nuns, but hardly any remains of the buildings belonging to it can now be traced. It was founded before the year 1151 by king Stephen, whoſe daughter Mary ſeems to have preſided over it, before ſhe became abbeſs of Romſey. For ſometime the ſociety conſiſted of ſixteen nuns, but at its diſſolution it was reduced to three or four. In the year 1513, biſhop Fiſher viſited them in the chapter room of their convent, and the perſons who appeared before him were the ſubprioreſs, two more of the nuns, and the old prioreſs. They were accuſed of a ſcandalous behaviour, nor did they deny the charge. They, however, with the moſt humble ſubmiſſion repeatedly prayed that confinement within their houſe might be the puniſhment inflicted upon them; and, for certain juſt and lawful cauſes, they entreated his lordſhip to direct their nunnery to be ſurrounded with a ſtone wall. The reaſons why this precaution ought to be uſed may be eaſily ſurmiſed, and it was probably owing to a want of it, that the conduct of the members of this ſiſterhood became notoriouſly abandoned. But they had rendered themſelves ſo infamous, that in the year 1521, it was judged neceſſary to

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to ſuppreſs the community. Biſhop Fiſher then obtained from the crown for the lately founded college of St. John's in Cambridge a grant of the manor of Higham, the ſite of the nunnery, the appropriation of the rectory of that pariſh, and the advowſon of the vicarage; and all of them are ſtill poſſeſſed by that learned body. By a final ſentence of conſolidation dated in May 1523, the college were always to provide a prieſt to officiate daily in the chapel of the convent, and to celebrate on the four chief quarter days of every year, exequies and a maſs of requiem for the ſouls of their founders and benefactors; and, leſt the needy and the infirm might ſeem to be neglected in this ſolemn act of union, it was decreed, with the conſent of the maſter, fellows, and ſcholars of the college, that twelve pence ſhould be by them diſtributed on every Michaelmas-day in the ſaid priory to the poor of Higham. In this pariſh there was anciently a cauſey and bridge leading down to the Thames, in order to give the eaſier paſſage to ſuch perſons as wanted to ferry over into Eſſex from this part of the country. And in the 21ſt year of king Edward, the charge of the maintenance of the ſaid bridge and cauſey was found before the judges upon their circuit to belong to the prioreſs of the nunnery of Higham.

Cliffe, which is an adjoining pariſh, is ſuppoſed by ſeveral eminent hiſtorians to have been the cloveſhoe, where many councils and provincial ſynods were held during the Saxon heptarchy. Other writers have, however, imagined that theſe clerical meetings were aſſembled at Abingdon, which was anciently called Cloveſham. The perſons who adopted the former opinion, conceived Cloveſhoe to have denoted Clove or Clive, near the hundred of Hoo. At the conqueſt this place was certainly denominated Biſhops Clive, and it is alſo worthy of attention that the rectors of Cliffe have had for time immemorial ſome privileges and powers rarely poſſeſſed by the incumbents of a country pariſh. Theſe two circumſtances

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cumſtances afford a preſumptive proof of the archbiſhops of Canterbury having, at an early period reſided at Cliffe; and if ſo, it is not unlikely that articles and laws reſpecting the doctrines and diſcipline of the church ſhould, at a very early period, have been conſidered and ſettled at that place. The manor of Cliffe, as far back as the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, belonged to the priory of Chriſt-church in Canterbury, and the archbiſhop is now the patron of the living, which is in the deanry of Shoreham, and of courſe ſubject to the peculiar juriſdiction of that ſee. But it is exempted from the authority of the dean of the arches, who is the commiſſary of that diſtrict, and the rector is only viſitable by the archbiſhop at Cliffe. The rector is, in an old MSS. ſtiled the ordinary of his pariſh; and he exerciſes ſeveral branches of ordinary juriſdiction without any ſpecial commiſſion, tho', doubtleſs, of old this right was veſted in his predeceſſors by a delegated power from the archbiſhop. By himſelf, or his ſurrogate, he holds a court every year ſoon after eaſter for the ſwearing in of the churchwardens, and he grants probates of wills, letters of adminiſtration and licences. Dr. Rawlinſon in his Engliſh topographer, informs us, that a ſeal belonging to the eccleſiaſtical court of Cliffe pariſh had been found upon Blackheath not long before the publication of his book; and that the words of the inſcription in the old black letter ſeemed to be as follows.

S. Officielit-†-Juriſdictionis de libā pōch de Clyff.

The author has alſo inſerted from the original an exact delineation of the ſeal, the impreſſion on which is a man's hand iſſuing out of a gown ſleeve (probably that of a doctor of laws) and holding a long ſtaff with a croſs fixed on the top of it. The date of the ſeal is not mentioned. The ſeal now uſed is very ancient; the device, is a biſhop ſtanding in baſket-work with his croſier. The inſcription is as follows.

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S. PECVLIARIS : IVRISDICTIONIS : RECTORIS: DE : CLIFF

The church is large and handſome, and has a tower which may be diſtinctly ſeen from ſome parts of the turnpike road. In the chancel are ſix ſtalls like thoſe in cathedral churches, and the tradition of the place is, that they were formerly filled by a dean and five prebendaries. There are ſeats of this kind in many more parochial churches in Kent, as well as in other counties; and ſome writers have averred them to be indiſputable evidence of there having been in theſe pariſhes ſome college of prieſts, either ſecular or regular, though ſuch fraternity may not be mentioned by any hiſtorians, nor any memorials preſerved of founders, or the rules and orders by which they were governed. But when theſe or any other concurrent proofs of a fixed community are wanting, is not the concluſion too haſtily drawn with reſpect to the ancient uſe of ſtalls in the chancels of country churches, and may not another reaſon be aſſigned for the conſtructing of them? During the eſtabliſhment of popery in England, it is well known that there was ſcarce a pariſh church which, beſides the high altar, had not one altar at leaſt placed in the nave, or in an adjoining chapel, dedicated to ſome chimerical tutelary ſaint: and in many pariſhes there were chapels and chantries erected at a diſtance from the church. At theſe private altars the incumbents of the pariſhes were under no obligation to officiate; but generally chaplains and chantry prieſts were appointed for that purpoſe. They were ſeldom abſolutely independent of the rectors or vicars of the reſpective churches, and one article of ſubordination uſually required, was the aſſiſting occaſionally at the celebration of maſs at the high altar, and particularly on the chief feſtivals. The ſuperſtitious acts of religious worſhip were at that time ſung or ſaid, not in the nave, or body of the church, but in the chancel; and

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and the ancient ſeats or ſtalls which are ſtill remaining in many chancels, ſeem to have been the places where the incumbent and all the other clergymen belonging to the church performed theſe ſacred offices.—The pariſh of Cliffe is extenſive, and from the ruins of ſome buildings not far from the ſtreet, the town is imagined to have been much larger than it is at preſent. Lambard mentions it to have ſuſtained great damage by a fire which happened in 1520.

Not far from Cliffe is Cowling-caſtle, ſo named from the pariſh wherein it is ſituated. It was built by John Lord Cobham, who in 1399 obtained from Richard II. a licence for its erection. There is a tradition, that he, fearing its ſtrength might give ſome umbrage at court, to obviate it, cauſed the following lines to be cut on a ſcroll, with an appendant ſeal of his arms, in imitation of a deed or charter, and fixed on the eaſtermoſt tower of the chief entrance, where it is ſtill viſible, engraved on braſs.

Knoweth that beth and ſhall be
That I am made in help of the contre
In knowing of whiche thing
This is chartre and witneſſing.

In this caſtle reſided the pious and intrepid Sir John Oldcaſtle, who, in the reign of king Henry V. fell a victim to Popiſh cruelty. In the year 1553, Sir Thomas Wyat, in his inſurrection againſt queen Mary, attempted to take this caſtle. Kilburn ſays, "the gate was broke open with his ordinance," but it was ſo well defended by the lord Cobham, its owner, that Sir Thomas was at length obliged to deſiſt. "The ruins," ſays Harris, "ſhew it to have been a very "ſtrong place, and the moat round it is very deep. The "gatehouſe is ſtill ſtanding, which is fortified with a port-

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"cluſe, or port-cullis, and machicolated*; it hath alſo ſuch "kind of towers for its defence, as were uſed in thoſe days." The preſent remains conſiſt of a handſome gate fronting the ſouth, flanked by two round towers; on the weſt are the walls of a ſquare fort, ſurrounded by a ditch or moat, formerly ſupplied with water from the Thames, but now almoſt choaked up. This building ſeems to have been independent of the gate, which probably led to the manſion, on the ſite whereof ſtands a farm-houſe.

Before the traveller proceeds in the direct road to Rocheſter, it is recommended to him, to croſs over to the ſouth-ſide of it, in order to take a curſory view of the two pleaſant villages of Shorne and Cobham, both ſituated on the right of the road. A windmill on a conſiderable eminence obviouſly points out the ſituation of the former; the place of divine worſhip allotted to this diſtrict is ſituated under the hill to the eaſt, the ſquare ſteeple of which, is viſible from ſome parts of the road. In the church is an altar monument, on which is the portraiture of Sir Henry de Cobham le uncle†, lord Randal, armed in mail and croſs-legged, with a lion paſſant at his feet, he was of eminence in the reigns of king Edward I. and II. Here is alſo an ancient octagonal font of Petworth marble; on the different faces of which are the following figures in demi-relievo.—A lamb with a croſs;—St. Peter holding in one hand a church, in the other a key;—a ſaint with a croſs;—St. John the Evangeliſt in a chalice, with a glory round him;—St. John the Baptiſt, baptizing our Saviour in the river Jordan;—an angel holding a pair of ſcales in which are

* See the notes in page 99.

† So termed, ſays Phillipot, becauſe he was uncle to the lord Cobham.

two

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two rude figures ſitting;—ſome unintelligible hieroglyphics; the other is blank.

Roger de Norwood, who was in poſſeſſion of the manor of Shorne in the reign of Henry III. changed its tenure from Gavelkind to that of knights ſervice*, "by which tenure," ſays Phillipot, "he was to carry a white banner forty days "together, at his own charge, whenever the king ſhould com-"mence a war in Scotland."

Adjoining to Shorne is the pariſh of Cobham, which gave name to a family, that, from the reign of king John to that of James I. a term of above four hundred years, was of the higheſt eminence in this county; and, ſeveral of whom were entruſted with places of the greateſt honour therein. The noble manſion of Cobham-hall ſituated in an extenſive park, was the ſeat of reſidence of thoſe illuſtrious noblemen; as it now is, of the earl of Darnley. In a large room in this houſe are ſtill to be ſeen the arms of queen Elizabeth, with a memorandum of her having been entertained here by the then proprietor of this ſeat. Sir Joſeph Williamſon, the founder of the free mathematical ſchool in Rocheſter, and then one of the repreſentatives of that city, reſided here.—The grant of a weekly market, to be held in this pariſh on a Monday was obtained by John Lord Cobham in the 41ſt of Edward III. but has long been diſcontinued.—In Cobham church are monuments to the memories of ſeveral of the noble perſonages who once inhabited this manſion (one ſo early as 1354); among which is that of John lord Cobham the founder of the college here, with his effigy on a braſs plate, holding a repreſentation of the college in his hands. Likewiſe a beautiful altar monument ſtanding in the middle of the chancel, on which are the effigies of two

* See page 59.

perſons

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perſons at full length, and ſeveral children kneeling; this was erected to the memory of George lord Cobham, who, in the reign of queen Elizabeth was governor of Calais, and died in 1558.—Cobham college was founded and endowed by John lord Cobham in the year 1362, for a maſter and chaplain to pray for the ſouls of him, his anceſtors and ſucceſſors. In the reign of Henry VIII. this college ſhared the fate of all other inſtitutions of the like kind; but by an act paſſed in the 31ſt year of that reign, the ſite of the college, &c. was retained in the Cobham family, and by William lord Cobham was bequeathed to Sir John Lawſon, Thomas Fane, eſq; and William Lambard (author of the Perambulation) together with certain quantities of timber and bricks, and certain ſums of money, in truſt that they ſhould "re-edify and make there a new "college for poor people to inhabit, continue, and be reliev-"ed in, and maintained there for ever." This new college was finiſhed in 1598, and by the truſtees above-mentioned, ſubjected to ſuch rules and orders as they judged conducive to the better regulation of this well-deſigned charity. The perpetuity of the truſt was, by an act of the legiſlature in the reign of queen Elizabeth, veſted in the wardens and commonality of Rocheſter-bridge, who are thereby ſtiled the preſidents of the New-college at Cobham, and by the attention that reſpectable body, has ſhewn to this charity the benevolent intention of the donor is to this day fully executed. twenty poor perſons with their families* have a comfortable habitation, with a quarter of an acre of land to each, and a monthly ſtipend of ſix ſhillings and eight-pence.

In

* The preſentation of this charity is as follows:—The proprietor of Cobham-hall ſends one, who is ſtiled warden of the college; the wardens of Rocheſter-bridge, as preſidents of the college, ſend one, who is ſub-warden; the remaining eighteen are ſent from the following

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In purſuing the rout to Rocheſter, the hill, at the foot of which is the 26th mile ſtone, is the much noted Gad's-hill, ſuppoſed by many to be the ſpot on which Henry prince of Wales, ſon of king Henry IV. and his diſſolute aſſociates, robbed the Sandwich carriers, and the auditors who were carrying money to his father's exchequer. Phillipot has hinted a ſurmiſe that this felonious frolic might have been played on Shooter's-hill, but tradition countenances the former opinion. And Shakeſpeare, beſides diſtinguiſhing one of the thieves by the name of Gad's hill, having repeatedly fixed the ſcene of this tranſaction on this part of the road, makes it not unlikely, that he thought himſelf warranted in ſo doing, by a paſſage he had diſcovered in ſome Engliſh Chronicle.—It is the remark of an ingenious writer of her travels, that great events or actions, ſtamp a veneration on the ſpot where they were performed, and impreſs the ſpectator with lively ſentiments of pleaſure many ages after. This obſervation ſeems to be, to a high degree, pertinent and juſt, when applied to the dramatic works of a deſervedly admired poet, who has only related and embelliſhed incidents, perhaps of a doubtful authority, or, if ſtrictly true, of but little importance. Not one of Shakeſpeare's plays is more read than his firſt part of king Henry the IVth. and of the many travellers who have been diverted with peruſing the dialogues between the prince and Falſtaff, there are, perhaps, very few who will not experience a renewal of their mirth upon being informed, that they are riding near the ſuppoſed ſcene, of theſe fictitious converſations: and, if ever they were fortunate enough to ſee the Falſtaff, deſcribed by the poet, repreſented by a late comedian, who was unrivalled in that character, the recollection of what excited laughter in the theatre, will

following neighbouring pariſhes; Cobham, three; Shorne, two; Cooling, one; Strood, two; Hoo, three; Cliffe, one; Chalk, one; Graveſend, one; Higham, one; St. Maries, one; Cuckſtone, one; Halling, one.

not

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not fail of raiſing a ſmile on Gad's-hill. To perſons of imaginations not over fanciful, the figure of the humourous knight muſt preſent itſelf. They will be apt to think they hear him facetiouſly complaining of the cruel treatment of the ſtony-hearted villains, his companions, in removing his horſe, and conſtraining a man of his bulk to rob on foot; to whom, eight yards of uneven ground was threeſcore and ten miles. And, when they recollect Hal's requeſt to Jack to lay his ear to the ground to liſten whether he could diſtinguiſh the tread of travellers, they muſt with pleaſure recall to mind the knights droll but appoſite queſtion; "have you any levers to lift me up again?" They will in idea be ſpectators of the thieves robbing the true men, and of the retaliation made upon the thieves by two of their own gang in forcibly taking from them their rich booty; and they will again enjoy the conceit of Falſtaff, with his cups of limed ſack, telling incomprehenſible lies in order to cover his cowardice; his long rencounter with the two rogues in buckram ſuits growing up into eleven, all of whom he pepper'd and payed, till three miſbegotten knaves in Kendal green, ("for it was ſo "dark, Hal, thou couldſt not ſee thy hand") came at his back and let drive at him.—Thus on the ſtage, in the cloſet, and upon the road, Falſtaff's adventure at Gad's-hill, is likely to be, according to the prediction of the poet, not only an argument for a week, laughter for a month, but a good jeſt for ever.*

Cloſe

* Travellers, who have frequented the Kentiſh road will, as uſual, be looking out for the old ſign, and probably be mortified to find that it has given place to an implement of huſbandry, and that "Late Sir John "Falſtaff," is all that is left to denote Gads-hill, caſa (cottage). There is no danger of Shakeſpeare's inimitable pages being forgotten; otherwiſe poſterity might be as much puzzled to diſcover the true meaning of theſe words, as ſome antiquarians not long ſince were to trace the etymology of the Bull and Mouth Inn near Alderſgate, and of the Bell Savage on Ludgate-hill. The editors wiſh that the Plow may prove "a good lucky, "thriving

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Close to the ſummit of Gad's-hill, on the north-ſide of the road, is ſituated the very ſmall pariſh of Merſton. This diſtrict has been entirely deſtitute of inhabitants for more than three centuries; for which reaſon, and becauſe there was no manſion-houſe for the rector, biſhop Lowe, in the year 1455, diſcharged him from reſidence, till there ſhould be a conflux of people to the place. But as the church was then ſtanding, the biſhop enjoined the incumbent to take care, that maſs ſhould be ſaid and other divine offices performed in it yearly on the feſtival of St. Gyles, the ſaint to whom the church was dedicated; and his lordſhip further ordered the church to be kept in more decent repair. It is, however, highly probable that very little regard was ever ſhewn to this laſt injunction, and, according to Phillipot, the ruins of this ſacred edifice did in his time repreſent themſelves to the ſmalleſt glance of a curious eye. In the biſhop's regiſtry at Rocheſter is a ſurvey of this pariſh, which ſeems to have been taken towards the end of the laſt century, and the following extract from it may, perhaps, afford ſome amuſement to the antiquarian reader.—"The place where the church once ſtood is "now a wood*, and contains by computation between four "and five acres. It lies nearly in a direct line between the "churches of Shorne and Higham, about one mile diſtant "from the former, and a mile and a half from the latter. "Within this wood is a deep ditch, or intrenchment, which

"thriving ſign to their hoſt of the Falſtaff," though, "as it is a way "too ſtale and common," they are not pleaſed with the alteration; they are likewiſe inclined to think, that the exhibition in painting of an exploit which has long rendered this ſpot memorable,

> Striking the ſenſes of the paſſers by
> Might, by a virtual influence, breed affections,
> That would reſult upon the party owns it.

* This is the wood on the left, adjoining the road.

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" ſeems to have been anciently a fortification, or deſigned " for the defence of the place. It encompaſſes a ſquare part " of the wood, containing about three acres. The four ſides " of this intrenchment lie nearly ſouth, weſt, north and eaſt. " Within it are many riſings and inequalities, which, proba- " bly were the foundations of buildings.—In the eaſtern part " of it, about fifteen paces from the ditch, ſeems to have been " the ſite of the church; ſome marks or veſtiges of the walls " are ſtill remaining. It appears to have been about fifteen " paces long and ſeven broad. At the weſt-end of this, is a " heap of ſtones, which, by the mortar mixed with them, " ſeems to have been the walls of the church or ſteeple. A- " bout this ſuppoſed ſite of the church runs a ridge, or ſome- " what riſing ground, which, perhaps, was the wall of the " church-yard.—About ten rods ſouth of the weſt-end of the " ſite of the chancel, is a very deep draw-well. There is now " no way to this place, but over ploughed or paſture lands. I " am told that the pariſh of Merſton contains about 150 acres " of land, and that it buts or bounds on three ſides to the " pariſh of Shorne, and on the other ſide to Higham.—I find " that Merſton hath been aſſeſſed, and paid to the church " and poor of Shorne for near a hundred years paſt, which is " as ancient as there are pariſh books remaining."—Thomas Danye of Shorne bequeathed, by his will dated July 17, 1493, ten acres of land lying together in the pariſh of Merſton, to truſtees, for the diſtribution of herrings white and red for ever in Lent.

Having paſſed the 27th ſtone, a view on the left will preſent itſelf, of the Hermitage; the ſeat of the late Sir Francis Head, bart. ſituated on an eminence which commands a pleaſing view of both the Thames and Medway.—The newly erected building cloſe to the road is the reſidence of Mr. Day.—From the top of Strood-hill is a fine proſpect of the three towns,

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towns, which form a continued ſtreet of above two miles in length.—Frindſbury church appears on an eminence to the left.

At the entrance into Strood ſtands the pariſh church, which conſiſts of a nave and two iles; it is 100 feet in length and 50 in breadth. In the chancel is a handſome wainſcot altar-piece, of the Corinthian order. On the ſouth ſide of the altar are ſome receſſes, conſiſting of arches ſupported by pillars of Petworth marble.—In the ſouth ile is a ſmall ſtone chapel built in 1607, in the pavement of which are ſome fragments of Moſaic work. The principal entrance is at the ſouth door, through a large gothic arch of Caen ſtone. Having paſſed through the turnpike gate, the opening on the left is the ſpot where once ſtood Newerk hoſpital, founded by Gilbert de Glanville, biſhop of Rocheſter, but has been demoliſhed upwards of two hundred years, ſome few remains only excepted. One end of this inſtitution, agreeable to the ſuperſtitious practices of thoſe times, was, that maſſes might be ſaid for the ſouls of the founder, and many other pious benefactors. The reſidue of the profits of the eſtates ſettled upon it, after the prieſts and ſervants had received their ſhare, were applied in relieving the ſick, the impotent, and the neceſſitous, whether neighbours or travellers. And this ſeems to have been the original deſign of hoſpitals, that travellers, eſpecially pilgrims, might be refreſhed and entertained. For this purpoſe they were generally ſituated near a high road.—About half a mile ſouth of Strood church, on the banks of the Medway, is an ancient building called the Temple, ſo named from having been formerly the manſion of the knights templars of the teutonic order. The habitation of that famous order of robbers, is now a farm-houſe. Little remains of the ancient fabric, except a ſpacious cellar, vaulted with chalk and ſtone groins; the walls are of a conſiderable thickneſs.—The juriſdiction of the corporation of Rocheſter extends over the north ſide of this

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ſtreet including the church; the remainder is in the north diviſion of juſtices of the lathe of Aylesford, and in the hundred of Shammell. Great part of the inhabitants of Strood are ſupported by the fiſheries; of which the oyſter is moſt conſiderable. This is conducted by a company of free dredgers, eſtabliſhed by preſcription, but ſubject to the authority and government of the mayor and citizens of Rocheſter. In 1729, an act of parliament was obtained, for the better management of this fiſhery, and for confirming the juriſdiction of the ſaid mayor and citizens, and free dredgers. The mayor holds a court of admiralty every year, to make ſuch regulations as ſhall be neceſſary for the well-conducting this valuable branch of fiſhery. Seven years apprenticeſhip entitles a perſon to the freedom of this company. All perſons catching oyſters, not members of the fiſhery, are liable to a penalty. The company frequently buy brood or ſpat from other parts, which they lay in this river, where they ſoon grow to maturity. Great quantities of theſe oyſters are ſent to London; to Holland, Weſtphalia, and the adjacent countries.

STAGE III.

Rocheſter; the Bridge; Caſtle; St. Margaret's; Cathedral.—Chatham; Victualling-office; Sir John Hawkins's Hoſpital; Dock-Yard.—Gillingham.—Rainham.—Newington.—SITTINGBOURN.

ROCHESTER, in point of antiquity, is inferior to few cities in England; as a ſee, ſhe yields only to that of Canterbury, the metropolitical and moſt ancient, and that for the ſhort ſpace of ſeven years*. Altho' there are no

* The archbiſhoprick of Canterbury being founded in the year 597, the biſhoprick of Rocheſter in 604.

traces

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traces of its having ever been very extenfive, yet, from its commodious fituation for commanding the paſſage over the Medway, it was very early diſtinguiſhed, and improved as a place of defence. That it was the Durobrovis of the Romans is generally agreed: their ancient Watling-ſtreet running directly thro' it; the great quantity of Roman coins which have been frequently found here; and the Roman bricks ſtill viſible in ſome parts of the wall, clearly evince it to have been a Roman ſtation.—At the conqueſt, it was governed by a chief magiſtrate ſtiled Præpoſitus; but, in the year 1165 was incorporated by Henry II*. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen (of whom the mayor is one) a town-clerk, and twelve common-council. The mayor, recorder, ſenior alderman, and late mayor, are juſtices of the peace, who are empowered to hold ſeſſions, to hear and determine felonies committed in the city liberties, and to puniſh delinquents.—It ſends two members to parliament, who are choſen by the freemen at large, conſiſting of about ſix hundred.—A market is held on every Friday, and a fair on May 30th, and December 12th.—Rochester is 30 miles from London, 15 from Dartford, 7 from Graveſend, 10 from Town-Malling, 20 from Sevenoake, 20 from Tonbridge, 9 from Maidſtone, 28 from Aſhford, 11 from Sittingbourne, 17 from Faverſham, 25 from Canterbury, and 18 from Sheerneſs.—The city is ſituated in a pleaſant valley; and, except where the Medway intercepts, is ſurrounded with hills; ſome ſteep and near; others of a more gradual aſcent and at a greater diſtance; the variety of rich encloſures with which they are covered, form ſome of the fineſt landſcapes, fancy can conceive†. On the banks of the

* Of equal antiquity with this firſt charter is the corporate ſeal ſtill in uſe; it is a curious piece of ancient ſculpture. A repreſentation of it was given in the Hiſtory and Antiquities of this city, publiſhed in 1772.

† A very ingenious artiſt in delineating one of thoſe picturesque ſcenes from a gentleman's garden on Caſtle-hill, declared that, altho' he had travelled

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river are moſt agreeable walks; and, as there are no ſtagnated waters, the air is ſalubrious.

The Medway is here capable of receiving ſhips of the greateſt burthen, and is above 600 feet wide. The moſt diſtant ſource of this celebrated river is at Crowherſt in Surry, from Crowden in the ſame county, and from Aſhdown and Waterdown Foreſts in Suſſex, are ſprings, the waters of which uniting with the former near Penſhurſt, flow in a conſiderable ſtream to Tonbridge, from whence it is navigable for barges; and, purſuing a courſe of fifteen miles, reaches Maidſtone; having firſt received conſiderable additions from innumerable ſmall ſprings, but chiefly by a large ſtream at Hadlow (derived from ſeveral ſprings at Ightam, Shipbourn, Compherſtwood and Oxenheath); a ſtill more conſiderable one at Twyford-bridge, which has its riſe from Steward's-mead, Fant, and Theyſhurſt in Suſſex; and at Yalding, by a ſtream formed by various ſprings at Great Chart, Pluckley, Egerton, Ulcomb, Eaſt-Sutton, Cranbrook, &c. At Maidſtone it is augmented by a rivulet flowing thro' that town from Lenham, Harrietſham and Leeds. In various, and frequently oppoſite directions, it meaſures a courſe of eighteen miles further before it reaches Rocheſter, deriving as it advances freſh ſupplies from various ſprings, and from Birling-brook, which has its riſe at Wrotham and Trotterſcliffe.—Sir Richard Blackmore has celebrated its irregular progreſs in the following lines.

Whoſe wanton tide in wreathing volumes flows,
Still forming reedy iſlands as it goes.
And, in meanders, to the neighbouring plain,
The liquid ſerpent draws its ſilver train.

From Rocheſter it proceeds about twenty-four miles, growing deeper and wider as it advances, and paſſing Chatham-yard,

travelled much both in England and abroad, he never ſaw a landſcape ſo complete in itſelf, without any aſſiſtance from art.

Upon-

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Upnor-caſtle, Gillingham-fort, and Sheerneſs-garriſon, it meets the Thames, and with that river is loſt in the ocean at the Nore.

The entrance into the city of Rocheſter from Strood, is over an elegant ſtone bridge. Before this bridge was built, there was one of wood, but not on the ſame ſpot, it being ſituated in a line with the principal ſtreets of Rocheſter and Strood, which conſequently was a more eligible ſituation, as its effect on the eye muſt have been more ſtriking. But the lane from the High-ſtreet of Rocheſter to the bridge, has been much improved by the wardens, who have the care of it. A row of houſes that ſtood on one ſide has been lately taken down, which has rendered that paſſage much wider and more commodious. It cannot accurately be determined in what year the preſent ſtone bridge was begun, but it appears, upon record, that it was compleated in 1392. It was built by Sir Robert Knolles; and for height and ſtrength, is allowed to be ſuperior to any in England, excepting thoſe of London and Weſtminſter. It is 560 feet long, and 14 feet broad. It has eleven arches, ſupported by ſtrong and ſubſtantial piers, which are well ſecured on each ſide with ſterlings. The river has a conſiderable fall thro' theſe arches.—By ſeveral ſtatutes paſſed in different reigns, certain lands are made contributory to the repairs of the bridge. Two wardens, with twelve aſſiſtants, choſen annually, are empowered to purchaſe and receive lands, tenements and rents, for that uſe. They were permitted alſo to have a common ſeal, and to plead in any court, by the name of the wardens of the new bridge at Rocheſter. They have the management of all matters concerning it. The increaſed value of the eſtates belonging to this bridge, have been ſufficient to keep it in repair, for many years paſt, without any aſſiſtance from the contributory lands; altho' it has lately received very conſiderable improvements.

Having

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Having paſſed the bridge, on the right-hand are the remains of Rocheſter-caſtle; the entrance to which is, either up a flight of ſteps behind the crown inn, or thro' a lane oppoſite the Printing-office.—That the Britons, from their experience of the importance of the paſſage at this place, over the Medway, might erect ſome work, in order to ſecure it, is very probable: and, that the Romans had here a place of defence while they were in poſſeſſion of the iſland, is evident from the variety of their coins, which have been found in its ruins.—It is not probable, that the walls which are ſtanding at preſent, formed part of the caſtle that was built in the time of the Romans. The ravages made by the Danes, and the frequent wars which happened amongſt the ſeveral kings who governed the nation after the Romans had evacuated it, were not a little inſtrumental, in deſtroying it. Mr. Lambard thinks that the caſtle, of which there are now ſome remains, was the work of William the Conqueror, who erected many ſuch fortifications in England, to keep the public in obedience. From hence we may conclude, that about ſeven hundred years have elapſed ſince the building of this caſtle. Its preſent remains prove it to have been a ſtrong fortification, eſpecially when it is conſidered, that during the ſeveral conflicts betwixt the barons and the kings of England, this caſtle ſuſtained many ſieges. It ſtands on a ſmall eminence near the river Medway, and is nearly of a quadrangular form. It is about 300 feet ſquare within the walls, which are 7 feet in thickneſs, and 20 feet in height. Three ſides of the caſtle were ſurrounded with a deep broad ditch, which is now nearly filled up; on the other ſide, runs the Medway. In the angles and ſides of the caſtle were ſeveral ſquare towers, ſome of which are ſtill remaining. But what chiefly attracts the attention of a ſpectator, is, the noble tower, which ſtands in the ſouth-eaſt angle of the caſtle, and

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and is ſo lofty, as to be ſeen diſtinctly at twenty miles diſtance. It is of a quadrangular form, having its ſides parallel with the walls of the caſtle. It is about 70 feet ſquare at the baſe, and the walls, in general, are 12 feet thick. Adjoining to the eaſt angle of the tower is a ſmall one, about two-thirds of the height of the large tower, and about 28 feet ſquare. The apartments are divided by a partition wall, from the bottom to the top, ſo that the rooms were 21 by 46 feet on each floor. In this wall there are arches by which a communication was opened from one room to the other. In the center of it, there is alſo a well 2 feet 9 inches diameter; by which every floor was ſupplied with water. This is a curious piece of workmanſhip. On the north-eaſt ſide of the tower is a deſcent, by ſteps, into a vault under the ſmall tower, which ſeems to have been uſed as a priſon. In the eaſt angle there is a winding ſtair-caſe, which aſcends from the bottom to the top of the tower, altho' the ſteps are much deſtroyed, the aſcent is not difficult. In the weſt-angle is another ſtair-caſe, winding from the floor of the firſt ſtory to the top of the tower, having alſo communications with every room. There are many holes in the outward walls, on every ſide, for the admiſſion of light, and for annoying the enemy.—On the third floor, were the apartments of ſtate, and here the architect has diſplayed his greateſt ſkill. Theſe rooms were about thirty-two feet high, and ſeparated by columns, forming four grand arches curiouſly ornamented. As you aſcend to the next floor, about midway, there is a narrow-arched paſſage or gallery in the main wall, quite round the tower. From the upper, or fourth floor, the ſtair-caſe is carried ten feet higher, to the top of the great tower, which is about ninety-three feet from the ground; round which is a battlement ſeven feet high, with embraſures. From this elevation there is an agreeable and extenſive proſpect of the country, the city and adjacent towns,

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the barracks and dock-yard at Chatham, and the river Medway, whoſe meanders are pleaſing and romantic.

On leaving the caſtle, we croſs over the ſtile fixed in the ruined wall at the north angle and deſcend to Bully or Boley-hill*. From the many Roman urns and lacrymatories found on this ſpot, there is no doubt but it was the burying-place of the Romans during the time of their being ſtationed at Rocheſter. It is conjectured by ſeveral ancient hiſtorians, and with great probability, that this was the ſpot, where the Danes, who beſieged the city in the year 885, threw up a mound, on which they erected a fort, for the more effectual annoyance of the Britons, who had poſſeſſion of the caſtle, which they were prevented from removing by the unexpected approach of king Alfred, who obliged them to retire to their ſhips with the utmoſt precipitation.

Edward IV. in 1460, granted to the mayor and citizens of Rocheſter, a right to a view of frank pledge; and to hold a court of pie-power in the Boley. This is a ſeparate court-leet from that holden in the Guild-hall of the city. It is held under the elm-tree at the eaſt-end of the hill on the Monday after St. Michael. Boley-hill is now the pleaſant and retired ſituation of ſome gentlemen's houſes; that facing the caſtle is the ſeat of Joſeph Brooke, eſq; recorder of this city; great part of this houſe was rebuilt by its preſent poſſeſſor; but the ancient ſeat was the reſidence of Mr. Watts, the founder of the charity for the relief of ſix poor travellers, &c. He had here the honour of entertaining queen Elizabeth, in 1573, who, as tradition ſays, gave to this manſion the title of Satis, as a compliment to the hoſpitality of her hoſt, (which name it ſtill bears).—The ſtately

* For a very curious inveſtigation of the antiquity of Boley-hill, and the origin of its name, ſee the Hiſtory and Antiquities of Rocheſter, page 285.

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houſe on the eminence is the reſidence of Mrs. Gordon. The high ſtone walls adjoining, are the boundaries of the ſite on which ſtood the biſhop's palace. Between theſe and Mrs. Gordon's garden wall, is a paſſage to St. Margaret's-ſtreet. In which, on the left hand, is an ancient ſtone wall which bounded the precincts of the priory to the weſt; the brick wall which joins it encloſes the archdeacon's garden, at the end of which is a lane leading into the Maidſtone-road; oppoſite this lane on the right ſide of St. Margaret's-ſtreet is a houſe that, towards the end of the laſt century, was given by Francis Head, eſq; to the biſhops of this ſee, for the better accommodation of their lordſhips, when they ſhould viſit this part of their dioceſe. The next building is the poor-houſe for this pariſh; it was erected in 1724, towards the building of which, Sir Thomas Colby, and Sir John Jennings, the then repreſentatives of this city, gave two hundred pounds.—St. Margaret's church is ſituated at the end of the ſtreet; it conſiſts only of a nave about 100 feet in length. In the ſouth-ſide are two chancels, of a more modern conſtruction than the church. That towards the eaſt-end was built, and for a long time ſupported by the leaſe proprietors of Great Delce, who lie interred in a large vault under this chancel; but ſince the manor has become the property of other families, the repairs of it has devolved on the pariſhioners: on the eaſt wall, in the ſouth chancel, is an ancient buſt of a man with robes, and an earl's coronet on his head. In the nave before the pulpit, is a flat ſtone with the effigy of a man, and an inſcription on a braſs plate, ſo ancient as 1450. In two of the north windows, and in the eaſt window, are ſome ſmall remains of painted glaſs.—Returning down St. Margaret's-ſtreet, and turning on the right thro' a breach in the wall, we enter the precincts of the priory thro' the gateway, anciently ſtiled the prior's gate; from which is a fine view of the ſouth-ſide of the cathedral extending in length 306 feet. The building

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adjoining to the gate is the royal grammar-ſchool, founded by Henry VIII. for the education of twenty boys, called king's ſcholars. It is endowed with four exhibitions, to be paid by the church to four ſcholars; two of them to be of Oxford and two of Cambridge, which exhibitions of 5l. per year each, they enjoy, till they have taken the degree of A M. if they continue members of the univerſities, and have no fellowſhip. An upper and under maſter are appointed for the inſtruction of youth in this ſchool.—At a ſmall diſtance to the left is the ſite of the ancient palace belonging to the biſhop of this ſee. Biſhop Fiſher appears to be the laſt who reſided here. The preſent buildings were erected about the middle of the laſt century, and are by the biſhop leaſed out to tenants, as is his houſe in St. Margaret's. The ſmall but neat brick building, near the weſt door of the cathedral, was built at the charge of the late biſhop, as an office for the uſe of his regiſter.—We now approach the weſt front of the cathedral, which is 81 feet in breadth. The arch of the great door is, doubtleſs, the ſame which Gundulph built in 1080, and is a curious piece of workmanſhip, every ſtone being engraved with ſome device. It muſt have been very magnificent in its original ſtate, its remaining beauties being ſufficient to excite the attention of the curious. It is ſupported by ſeveral columns on each ſide, the capitals of which, as well as the whole arch, are cut into figures of various animals and flowers. The key-ſtone of the arch ſeems deſigned to repreſent St. Andrew the tutelar ſaint of the church. On each ſide of the weſt door is a ſquare tower; that, on the north ſide, having been lately rebuilt, is not uniform with the other, but in its centre-niche is preſerved a very ancient figure, ſuppoſed to be the ſtatue of biſhop Gundulph. Having entered the weſt door, we deſcend into the body of the church, which, with the ſide iles, is 63 feet in breadth. The lower part of the nave, is, probably, all that remains of the building raiſed by

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by Gundulph. The pavement from the weſt door to the choir ſteps, was laid after the reſtoration by Mr. Peter Stowell, who expended therein 100l. Over the middle of the great croſs ile ſtands the ſteeple, the height of which is 136 feet, and in it are ſix bells. On the weſt-ſide of the ſouth-end of this ile, is a chapel, encloſed with rails, called St. Mary's chapel. It was, till the diſſolution of the priory, the chapel of the Infirmary. The biſhop's conſiſtory court, is now held here. On the eaſt-ſide of this ile is a ſquare chapel, uſually called St. Edmund's chapel. In the north wall is a ſtone cheſt ſuppoſed to contain the remains of John de Bradford, which were depoſited here in 1283; from hence you deſcend into the undercroft, which is very ſpacious and vaulted with ſtone. From St. Edmund's chapel, you proceed to the chapter-room, the arch of its door ſeems to rival the great weſt door in point of antiquity, it being richly carved and ornamented with a variety of figures. Near this door are two very old ſtone cheſts, raiſed about a foot from the ground, which are undoubtedly the repoſitories of ancient biſhops.—In the chapter-room is the library.—The altar-piece is made of Norway-oak. Dr. Herring, archbiſhop of Canterbury, who had been dean of this cathedral, gave 50l. towards its decoration.—In the center, was very lately fixed a painting of the angels appearing to the ſhepherds, executed by Weſt.—On each ſide of the altar, are the tombs of ſeveral biſhops, among which are thoſe of Laurence de St. Martin, Gilbert de Glanville, and of that great benefactor to this church biſhop Gundulph.—The choir is of a later date than the nave, and has been built about 550 years. It was the work of William de Hoo, who, as ſacriſt, had charge of the conſecrated things belonging to the church. The roof of this, as well as of other parts of the building, are curiouſly vaulted with ſtone, the columns of which, are all of Petworth marble, of

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of a grey colour tinged with green. Its texture is rather irregular, but very firm, and not deſtitute of brightneſs. The choir is neat and commodious, and was conſiderably improved in the years 1742 and 1743; the whole pavement was then laid with Bremen and Portland ſtone beautifully diſpoſed,—The biſhop's throne which is oppoſite the pulpit, was built at the charge of Dr. Wilcocks then biſhop of that ſee.—Over the entrance of the choir is an organ, but very ancient. It was erected early in the laſt century; ſo long ſince as 1668, it was called an old inſtrument, and 160 pounds were expended in the repair of it.—At the north-end of the upper croſs ile is a chapel called St. William's chapel, whoſe tomb is here ſituated; where is alſo an elegant monument, to the memory of Walter de Merton, a learned and liberal prelate. It was cleaned and beautified in 1770. At the weſt-end of this chapel is an ile, encloſed with iron rails, and paved with black and white marble. In this ile is a beautiful tomb of marble and alabaſter, erected to the memory of Richard Warner. And alſo two others to the memory of John Lee Warner, archdeacon of this dioceſe, and Lee Warner, eſq; From this door is a deſcent into the great north ile, the ſteps of which being much worn, bear evident marks of their antiquity, and prove how numerous the votaries were, who formerly reſorted to the ſhrine of St. William.—For a more particular account of the monuments and other curioſities in this venerable edifice, we muſt refer the reader to Thorpe's Regiſtrum Roffenſe; or, to the Hiſtory and Antiquities of Rocheſter; and ſhall only add, that in this church are a dean, ſix prebendaries, ſix minor canons, beſides lay clerks, choriſters, verger, porter, &c.

On the north ſide of the cathedral, between the two croſs iles, is an ancient tower, which is generally allowed to have been raiſed by Gundulph, and is conjectured to have been deſigned

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deſigned by that prelate for a treaſury, or repoſitory for records; this conjecture is founded on a view of the ſmall area within it, the uncommon thickneſs of its walls, and the very ſingular entrance into it, which was by a flight of ſteps on an arch ſprang from the top of the church to the ſummit of this tower. The gateway near the north door of the cathedral leads to the deanry which has been lately rebuilt, and is now an elegant and commodious houſe with a delightful garden.

At the diſtance of a few yards from the cathedral, is the church of St. Nicholas. It was built about the year 1620, and is a very neat and ſubſtantial building, conſiſting of a nave, a chancel and two iles, which are divided from the nave by two ranges of lofty ſtone columns, from which ſpring the gothic arches that ſupport the roof. The church is ſpacious, and well conſtructed for public worſhip. There are but few monuments or inſcriptions of any conſiderable antiquity in this church; but there are ſeveral modern ones, which are very elegant.

Having paſſed St. Nicholas church we enter the principal ſtreet, thro' what is now termed college-gate, but anciently the Cemetery-gate, and frequently Chertſey-gate, from Edmund Chertſey, gentleman, who was poſſeſſed of a tenement near it in the reign of Edward IV.—At the entrance into the High-ſtreet, next the bridge; at a ſmall diſtance from the town-key on the left, are the remains of St. Clement's church. Some of the walls are ſtill viſible at the entrance of the lane, which formerly bore the name of the ſaint to whom the church was dedicated. It is now converted into three dwelling-houſes, in one of which are ſome pillars and an arch intire.

On the ſame ſide of the way is the Town-hall which was firſt erected in 1687. It is a handſome brick ſtructure, ſupported

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ſupported by coupled columns of ſtone, in the Doric order; the area under it was paved with Purbeck ſtone, at the expence of Sir Stafford Fairborne, in 1706: adjoining to the back part of the area is the gaol of this city. The entrance into the hall is by a ſpacious ſtair-caſe, the ceiling of which is curiouſly ornamented; as is the ceiling of the hall, with trophies of war, fruits and flowers. At the upper-end of the hall are full length portraits of king William III. and queen Anne, originals of Sir Godfrey Kneller. Againſt the upper end of the front wall, is the portrait of Sir Cloudeſly Shovel. Sir John Jennings and Sir Thomas Colby, are ranged on the ſame ſide. At the lower-end of the hall are the portraits of thoſe two eminent benefactors to this city, Sir Joſeph Williamſon and Mr. Watts. Sir John Lake is the firſt portrait within the back wall; Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Stafford Fairborne follow in the ſame line. Theſe portraits are all executed by the moſt eminent maſters of that age. All public buſineſs reſpecting the government of this city is tranſacted in this hall, and here alſo the Judges have frequently held the aſſizes for this county.

The Clock-houſe was built at the expence of Sir Cloudeſly Shovel in 1686, who alſo gave the clock; and, by a deed of gift, confirmed the ſame to the mayor and citizens for ever.—Proceeding eaſtward, at a ſmall diſtance, and directly oppoſite to the college-gate, is, the ancient Cheldegate-lane, ſo named from a gate there placed. At the bottom of this lane is a large and commodious brick building for the reception of the poor of St. Nicholas pariſh. It was erected in 1724; towards the building of it, Sir Thomas Palmer and Sir John Jennings gave 500l. Such of the poor as are able, are employed in ſpinning worſted and yarn.—Returning to the main ſtreet, near where the pump now ſtands, was anciently the corn croſs, where was held the corn-

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corn-market, but it has been long diſuſed.—Near to this, on the left, is the Cuſtom-houſe; the adjoining building to which, is the houſe appointed for the reception of ſix poor travellers. The deſign of this charity may be ſeen from the following inſcription placed over the door.

Richard Watts, eſq;
by his will dated 22d of Auguſt, 1579,
founded this charity,
for ſix poor travellers,
who, not being rogues or proctors,
may receive gratis, for one night,
lodging, entertainment,
and four-pence each.

That this liberal patron of the poor ſhould except rogues from a participation of his charity, is not matter of ſurpriſe; for it ill becomes the friend of integrity, to countenance or encourage the man of known diſhoneſty and injuſtice. But, that proctors ſhould alſo be excluded, in ſo expreſs a manner, carries with it an inuendo, that he had no better opinion of that profeſſion, than he had of thoſe, whom he has ſtigmatized by the appellation of rogues. He had, without doubt, been impoſed upon by one of that fraternity; we cannot otherwiſe account for his handing them down to poſterity, in ſuch diſreputable company. But where a fraud has been practiced, a man's rank and profeſſion ought, by no means to ſanctify the deed, tho' they may be the means of ſcreening his guilt, and evading the laws. So true is the obſervation of the poet,

That little rogues ſubmit to fate,
For great ones to enjoy the world in ſtate.

At this diſtance of time, it is impoſſible to account for the exception here-mentioned. Popular tradition aſſigns a cauſe,

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which carries with it ſome plauſible appearance of truth—That Mr. Watts had employed a proctor to make his will, in which he had *given* and *bequeathed* to himſelf no inconſiderable part of the effects of his client; who, recovering beyond all expectation, detected the fraud, and ever after conceived an averſion to that order. Particular injuries will ſometimes affect the mind with a more than common degree of aſperity; and not the individual only, by whom we have been injured, will feel our diſpleaſure, but the genus (if I may ſo expreſs myſelf) to which that individual belongs, will ſhare alſo our cenſure and diſapprobation. Yet, were we, in our commerce with the world, to ſuffer ourſelves to be directed by this rule, we muſt be inevitably diſqualified for ſociety; and, by ſo unreaſonable a miſanthrophy, render our ſituation in it mortifying and unhappy, becauſe there is no profeſſion whatever, but has in it ſome unworthy members, whoſe crimes ought not to be imputed to others, becauſe of their profeſſional connection. The greater the temptation, to which a man's condition of life expoſes him, the more commendable is his conduct, if he ſtrictly adheres to probity and juſtice. But another, in the ſame occupation, is no more entitled to reſpect and eſteem from his merit, than this laſt to the odium juſtly incurred by the mal-practices of the former; neither ought the profeſſion to ſuſtain any blemiſh from a few exceptionable characters. For the ſupport of this charity, Mr. Watts left an eſtate valued, at that time, at no more than 36l. per year, which eſtate now produces a neat income of 500l. per annum. He ordered, by his will, that what ſurplus remained, after defraying the expences of this houſe for travellers, ſhould be given to the poor of Rocheſter, in conſequence of which, it is paid to the overſeers and church-wardens of the pariſhes of St. Nicholas, St. Margaret, and Strood, in ſuch proportions, as were decreed by the court of chancery.—On the ſame ſide, at a ſmall diſtance, is the free-

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ſchool, where the ſons of the freemen of this corporation, are educated in the mathematics, and other branches of ſcience, gratis, agreeable to the will of Sir Joſeph Williamſon, dated the 16th of Auguſt 1701, who left 5000l; to eſtabliſh a fund for that purpoſe. The upper maſter is allowed 100l. per ann. and the under maſter 40l per ann. each having a houſe to live in.—At the bottom of the High ſtreet a new road that leads to Canterbury opens to view. On this road, the traveller will be entertained with an agreeable view of the Medway, the Ordnance-office, the Dock-yard, the guard ſhips, the ſhips in ord nary, lying from the bridge at Rocheſter to Gillingham fort. The country adjacent ſerves alſo to enrich a proſpect, that the moſt luxuriant imagination cannot contemplate without pleaſure. Oppoſite to Chatham the river forms an acute angle, and runs in a different direction. —This road was made in the year 1769, in the formation of which, the workmen were obliged to cut through high hills, and fill up deep valleys. The ſoil is chalk and gravel.—When the ſcheme was propoſed for paving Rocheſter and Strood, according to the preſent mode, the inhabitants of Chatham were invited to accede to the propoſal, and join in a petition to parliament for paving the three towns. The offer was rejected, by which means they deprived themſelves of the aids granted by parliament; and a new road was made behind Chatham, which gave to travellers, an opportunity of purſuing their journey, without going through a town, whoſe pavement, dirt and darkneſs, had been long a public complaint. The ſtreets being alſo narrow, it was not only diſagreeable, but alſo dangerous to paſs through them, and particularly in the evening. Senſible of all theſe inconveniences, the inhabitants have procured, at their own expence, an act, to pave, light and cleanſe them, which act having been carried into execution, the town is greatly improved, and rendered much more commodious, as well for

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thoſe who reſide there, as for travellers. That the inhabitants could have no objection to the meaſure itſelf, is evident, from their having ſince adopted it; but why they ſhould refuſe to join in the propoſed coalition, whereby they would have received the benefit of a very conſiderable income, ariſing from a toll at Strood, can only be accounted for, from that ſpirit of party and oppoſition, which is too often excited on thoſe occaſions; and which, it is much to be lamented, too univerſally prevails. But their having carried it into execution ſince, at their own coſt and charge, is, however, a proof of diſintereſtedneſs. The liberal contributions raiſed amongſt themſelves, for this purpoſe, deſerve alſo to be mentioned, but particularly the generous aſſiſtance given to the inhabitants, on this occaſion, by one gentleman, who paid the whole expence of the act of parliament, which amounted to about 250l.—At a ſmall diſtance from the entrance on the new road, is St. Catharine's hoſpital, founded by Simon Poten, maſter of the crown inn, in 1316, for the ſupport of leprous or other diſeaſed perſons. It is now the habitation of twelve poor widows, who have ſeparate rooms to dwell in, are found in coals, candles, and receives each about 50s per annum.

Betwixt Rocheſter and Chatham is St. Margaret's bank, on which is a row of houſes, that command the river, and are pleaſantly ſituated. The high road runs along the bottom of it. At the entrance into Chatham is the King's Victualling-office, a place of great neatneſs and conveniency. From hence his majeſty's ſhips at Chatham and Sheerneſs are ſupplied with *proviſions.—Not far from hence, on the right hand, is

* As the high price of proviſions has been frequently a ſubject of debate, and various cauſes have been aſſigned, the following account of the contract prices of freſh beef delivered at this office for the laſt eight years, may not be unacceptable to the reader. Theſe contracts are made every quarter, but the average price only, for each year is put down, as under.

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is a ſmall chapel dedicated to St. Bartholomew, which belonged to an hoſpital, that was inſtituted for the reception of poor and leprous perſons. The eſtates of this community, ſince the year 1627, have been inveſted in the deans of Rocheſter as governors and patrons of the hoſpital, and the brethren of the ſame. There were formerly only three brethren, one of whom was always a clergyman, and officiated as the chaplain; but at preſent, the ſociety conſiſts of four, two of which are in orders. The chapel is now uſed as a chapel of eaſe to Chatham church, which is too ſmall for the pariſhioners, who are very numerous.—On the oppoſite ſide of the ſtreet, is an hoſpital, founded by Sir John Hawkins, for poor decayed mariners and ſhipwrights. The building appropriated for their reception, was finiſhed, as appears from an inſcription in the wall, in the year 1592. Queen Elizabeth, at the requeſt of the founder, granted a charter of incorporation, by the name of "the governors of the hoſpi-"tal of Sir John Hawkins, knt. at Chatham." Ten penſioners are maintained in this hoſpital, who are allowed 3s. 6d. per week each, and a chaldron of coals yearly. No perſon is eligible, who has not been maimed or diſabled in

	l.	s.	d.			l.	s.	d.	
1768 —	1	13	5	Cwt.	1772 —	1	8	1	Cwt.
1769 —	1	10	7	ditto	1773 —	1	7	8	ditto
1770 —	1	6	10	ditto	1774 —	1	8	1	ditto
1771 —	1	6	3	ditto	1775 —	1	11	7	ditto

The average price for theſe eight years is 1l. 9s. od. ¾q. per cwt. which is nearly 3¾d. per pound. The loweſt contract price, during the above period, was 19s. 10d. and the higheſt 35s. 2d.—One inference may be drawn from theſe calculations, which is, that government has been ſupplied with beef, for theſe laſt ſix years, at a cheaper rate, than they were, in the years 1768 and 1769, excepting the year 1775, which exceeds the year 1769 one ſhilling in the hundred weight, and this may be owing to the great demands for proviſions of every kind, on account of the preſent American war.

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the ſervice of the navy, or otherwiſe brought to poverty. Over the gate on the outſide is this inſcription.

" The poor you ſhall always have with you: to whom ye " may do good yf ye wyl."

But the principal object which deſerves the attention of a traveller, in Chatham, is the Dock yard. This arſenal is very commodious and convenient. It was much improved and enlarged by queen Elizabeth, who viewed it, and built Upnor-caſtle for its defence. Charles I. erected ſeveral conſiderable ſtore-houſes, and extended the ſite of the yard. His ſon, Charles II. took a view of it in 1660. This Dock-yard, including the ordnance wharf, is about a mile in length. The commiſſioner, and other principal officers, have elegant houſes to reſide in. Here are many ſpacious ſtore-houſes, one of which is 660 feet in length. The ſail-loft is 209 feet long. Though an immenſe quantity of ſtores of all kinds are depoſited in theſe magazines, yet they are arranged in ſo regular a manner, that, on any emergency, whatever is wanted may be procured with the greateſt diſpatch, and without the leaſt confuſion. In the ſmith's forge are 21 fires conſtantly employed Here are made the anchors, ſome of which weigh near five tons. The rope-houſe is 700 feet in length, in which cables have been made 120 fathoms long, and 22 inches round. In this yard are four docks for repairing ſhips, and ſix ſlips for building new ones. Here was built the victory, a firſt rate, carrying 110 guns, and the largeſt ſhip in the navy. She now lays at moorings near Gillingham.—The ordnance wharf is ſituated to the ſouth of the Dock-yard, being only ſeparated from it by a flight of ſtairs, made for the conveniency of landing from, or embarking in boats. This was the original Dock-yard; and, from this circumſtance, is now frequently called, the Old Dock. The guns belonging to each ſhip are arranged in tiers,

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tiers, with the name of the ſhip to which they belong, marked upon them; as alſo their weight of metal. The armory is deſerving the inſpection of the curious.—In the river Medway, there are always three ſhips of a third rate, in commiſſion. Theſe are called guardſhips. Two of them are ſtationed at Chatham, the other at Blackſtakes, which is near Sheerneſs.

Chatham church is ſituated on an eminence adjoining to the office of ordnance. It was deſtroyed by fire about the middle of the fourteenth century; and, in order to enable the inhabitants to rebuild it, the Pope, by a bull dated 1352, granted, to all who ſhould contribute their aſſiſtance to ſo pious a work, a relaxation from penances, for a year and forty days. The eaſt end of the church, now ſtanding, is nearly all that remains of the building raiſed by the Pope's brief. The north and ſouth iles are of a later date. The royal dock-yard having been much enlarged, the inhabitants of this pariſh were, in conſequence, conſiderably increaſed. In 1635, the commiſſioner of his majeſty's navy repaired the church, rebuilt and enlarged the weſt end, and erected the ſteeple. In 1707, the gallery over the ſouth ile was built by commiſſioner St Loo, of Chatham-yard, for the uſe of the navy and ordinary. But, notwithſtanding theſe enlargements, the church is too ſmall for the pariſhioners. A neat wainſcot altar-piece adorns the eaſt end of it, and ſeveral elegant marble monuments are fixed in different parts of the fabric.

Adjoining to the Dock-yard is the village of Brompton, which is partly in the pariſh of Chatham, and partly in that of Gillingham. It is ſituated on an eminence, and commands a pleaſing view of the river, in its various directions. One row of houſes, in particular, is called, from its agreeable ſituation, Proſpect-row. Brompton, from its vicinity to the yard, has been much increaſed of late years, in population and

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and extent. The ſtreets are wide and clean; for, lying on a declivity, the water is ſoon carried of. Behind, and on each ſide of Brompton, is a tract of land, called the Works, on which there had formerly been redoubts and a line of circumvallation, by way of ſecurity to the Dock-yard. But having been neglected, they are now gone to decay. Near Brompton are very commodious barracks, for the reception of ſoldiers, which are reckoned the moſt healthy of any in England.

Leaving Chatham, the traveller aſcends a hill of ſome conſiderable height, on the ſummit of which he will be delighted with a landſcape truly picturesque and beautiful. The proſpect is extenſive and variegated, interſperſed with a view of hills, dales, orchards, cherry-gardens, hop-grounds, woods, churches, farm-houſes, and the windings of the Medway.—The hops of this county are in much repute, of which the reader may not be diſpleaſed with the following poetical deſcription.

——————On Cantium's hills,
The flow'ry hop, whoſe tendrils climbing round
The tall aſpiring pole, bear their light heads
Aloft, in pendant cluſters; which in the malt's
Fermenting tuns infuſed, to mellow age
Preſerves the potent draught.

Standgate-creek, where ſhips perform quarantine, Sheerneſs, the Nore, and the coaſt of Eſſex, are in ſight. On the ſide of the hill, are many curious plants, which will afford much entertainment to the botaniſt. Harris ſays, that the hedge, on the left hand, is on the old Watling-ſtreet road of the Romans.

Near the 33d mile ſtone is a road which leads to a ſmall village called Gillingham. In the church are ſeveral monuments

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ments erected to the memory of eminent perſons, ſome of which are as early as 1431. Over the porch at the weſt-end is a niche, in which ſtood the image of the famous lady of Gillingham. This manor was formerly in poſſeſſion of the archbiſhop of Canterbury, who had a palace, and frequently reſided here; in the chapel of which, ſome biſhops appear to have been conſecrated. Some veſtiges of the palace are ſtill to be ſeen, part of it being converted into a barn.—Beſides the manor of Gillingham, and ſeveral others in this pariſh, there is that of Grange, which, in the reign of William the Conqueror, was in poſſeſſion of lord Haſtings; and in the reign of Henry III. was held by a deſcendant of that family, on a tenure of finding two oars for the ſhip which ſhould carry the king from Dover to Whitſand near Calais. This manor is a member of the port of Haſtings, one of the Cinque-ports. It muſt have been formerly held in conſiderable eſtimation; ſince, out of the twenty-one ſhips to be furniſhed by that port, the owner of this manor was to provide ſeven, with his men in armour. The manors of Lidſing and Twidale had each their ſeparate chapels, in which divine ſervice uſed to be performed; but theſe having gone to decay, the few inhabitants of theſe ſmall diſtricts repair to Gillingham church. This village, on account of its vicinity to the Medway, was much expoſed to the depredations of the Danes. Hiſtory gives an account of a battle having been fought here between Canute, a leader of theſe lawleſs plunderers, and Edmund Ironſide, in which the former was worſted. At Gillingham, on the banks of the river, is a ſmall fort, originally intended to annoy the ſhips of any hoſtile invader. It is, at preſent, a fortification of no ſtrength or conſequence.—The white ſpire which appears on the oppoſite ſide of the river is the ſteeple of Hoo church.

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Between the 34th and 35th mile ſtones is the village of Rainham. In the church are ſeveral ancient monuments, particularly an elegant marble ſtatue of Nicholas Tuſton, earl of Thanet, and under one of the chapels is a curious vault which belongs to this family.

The 37th ſtone ſtands in the ancient town of Newington. The church is large and neat; and is ſituated at ſome diſtance from the ſtreet, on the left hand. In it are ſeveral monuments, particularly of the Cobham family. A flight of ſtone ſteps ſtill remains, which leads to what was formerly a rood loft. In this town was a nunnery, to which belonged the manor of Newington, but by whom founded or endowed, does not appear. The traditionary account taken from Thorn's Chronicle of St. Auſtin, at Canterbury*, ſays, That the prioreſs was ſtrangled in her bed by ſome of her nuns, who, to conceal ſo execrable an aſſaſſination, threw her body into a pit; but this horrid tranſaction being not long after diſcovered, king Henry III. delivered ſuch as were culpable to the ſecular power to ſuffer according to their demerit, removed the guiltleſs to the nunnery at Minſter in Shepey, and filled their cloiſter with ſeven ſecular canons. Four of whom, not long after, murdered one of their fraternity, upon which the two innocent cannons conveyed their two parts of the manor to the abbey of St. Auſtin, and the other five were granted by the king to Richard de Lucy.

On an elevated ſituation to the ſouthward, juſt beyond the town, is Standard-hill, where, tradition ſays the Roman eagle was once diſplayed. It is in general agreed by ſuch as have ſearched moſt into the antiquities of this county, that this was the Durolevum of the Romans. In an adjoining field named Crockfield have been dug up ſeveral hundred of Roman pots, urns, and other veſſels; ſome of the urns were of very large

* Col. 1931.

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dimenſions, and embroidered with particular inſcriptions; "one," ſays Phillipot, "had *Severianus Pater* inſculped on it; "another was indorſed with *Priſcian*, and a third with *Fulvius* "*Linus*." It was obſerved, that wherever a great urn was found, ſeveral leſſer veſſels were found about it, and generally covered with a laying of the ſame earth with the body of the pot; from this circumſtance, as well as from the number of pots found empty, and laying in various poſitions, it is conjectured the Romans had a pottery near this place.

The firſt aſcent which appears after leaving Newington-ſtreet, has, for many ages, been diſtinguiſhed by the name of Caicol-hill, ſo called, as is ſuppoſed, from the Kentiſh Britons being defeated in this place by Caius Trebonius, who was detached from Cæſar's camp with three legions and all his cavalry to forage.

On the other ſide of the 38th ſtone is Key-ſtreet, which leads into the Iſle of Shepey.—Borden church appears alſo on the right, in which is a monument erected to the memory of that eminent antiquarian, Dr. Plot, author of the Antiquities of Oxford and Staffordſhire.

Half a mile to the left of the 40th ſtone is the ancient and royal town of Milton, ſituated, as it were, on the waters of a fine rivulet, at the head of a creek that runs into the Swale, which ſeparates the iſle of Shepey from the main. Antiquity has dignified it by calling it, "The royal town of Middle-"ton." When king Alfred divided his kingdom into hundreds and ſhires, Milton was in his poſſeſſion, and therefore was ſo denominated: It was honoured with a royal palace, which was ſituated near where the church at preſent ſtands, about a mile north-eaſt of the town: it was a flouriſhing place until the reign of Edward the Confeſſor; nor do we read of its being injured by the Danes, although it muſt have been viſited by them. In the ſame reign, in 1053, earl

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Godwin, who had been baniſhed, came hither and burnt the palace and town to aſhes. Milton church is a large, handſome building; there was a church in this place very early, for Sexburga, the foundreſs of the nunnery at Minſter in Shepey, is ſaid to have expired in the church porch of Milton, about the year 680. It contains ſeveral ancient monuments of the Norwood family. The town is governed by a port-reeve, who is annually choſen on St. James's day. There is a good oyſter fiſhery in the Swale, belonging to this town; the oyſters are much eſteemed in London. A market was granted by king Edward I. in 1287, and continues on Saturdays. A fair is held on the 24th of May.—Within a mile to the eaſt of the church is a large open field or marſh, called Kelmſley-down, derived, it is imagined, from Campſley-down, or the place of camps, becauſe there the Danes under Haſtings, in 892, encamped on their arrival from France with eighty ſhips. On the eaſt ſide of the down are the remains of a caſtle, ſaid to have been built at that time by thoſe free-booters; it is now called Caſtle-ruff. All that appears of this fortreſs at preſent, is a ſquare piece of ground ſurrounded with a large moat. On the oppoſite ſide of Milton-creek, and about half a mile north of Sittingbourn, are the poor remains of Bayford-caſtle, ſaid to have been raiſed by the good and vigilant king Alfred, to ſecure the country from any future depredations of the Danes, after he had ſo effectually routed haſtings, as to oblige him to ſue for peace, and to give his two ſons, as hoſtages for the obſervance of it. The moat, and a ſmall part of the eaſt-wall are ſtill viſible.

Between the 40 and 41ſt ſtones, is ſituated the town of Sittingbourn, which is a poſt-town, was formerly governed by a mayor, and had a market, neither of which it has at preſent. It has two fairs, one on Whit-monday, and the other on the 10th of October, at the laſt of which ſervants offer themſelves

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themſelves to hire. The church is large and handſome, and had in it ſeveral ancient monuments, among which was that of Sir Richard Lovelace, marſhal of Calais, in the reign of Henry VIII. richly inlaid with braſs; but this with many others have been injured by a fire that burnt the inſide and roof of the church in the year 1763. It is ſaid that there was an organ in it, about the time of queen Elizabeth. Phillipot ſays, that in the year 1420, king Henry V. with his retinue, was entertained in Sittingbourn, by John Norwood, eſq; when the bill for wine, amounted to 9s. 9d. it being 1d. per pint.

STAGE IV.

Bapchild.—Tong.—Tenham.—Green-ſtreet.—Oſpringe.—Faverſham.—Boughton under Blean.—Harbledown to CANTERBURY.

THE 42d ſtone ſtands in the village of Bapchild. In the window of the church are, a pall, the arms of the ſee of Canterbury, and other remains of painted glaſs. Archbiſhop Brightwald held a ſynod here, in 692; in memory of which a chapel or oratory was erected: a ſtone wall about ſixty feet long, on the north ſide of the road, is the remains of this building, which was uſed as a reſting place by the pilgrims who travelled to St. Thomas Becket's ſhrine at Canterbury.

Half a mile to the left of Bapchild, is the village of Tong, near which are the veſtiges of an ancient caſtle, ſaid to have been built by Hengiſt and Horſa, about the year 450: part of the ſouth wall is diſcernable within the large moat that ſurrounded

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ſurrounded the caſtle. A corn mill has been erected on the moat for upwards of two hundred years: the courteous miller informed us, that in digging within the caſtle, he found a braſs helmet and a few earthen urns.

Near the 46th ſtone is Tenham. Lambard ſays it is ſo named from having originally but ten houſes. The church is large, with only a tower, but no ſteeple. There are remains of good painted glaſs in the windows. In this pariſh, to the right of the road, is Linſted-lodge, the ſeat of Henry Roper, lord Tenham.

The 43d ſtone ſtands at the entrance of Green-ſtreet, a hamlet, in which is held a fair for cattle the 8th of May. Here was formerly the ſeat of the celebrated Apuldorfield, who, in the time of king Richard I. ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the holy war. His armour was hung up in the church of Lenham in this county.

About ¾ths of a mile north-eaſt from Green-ſtreet is Caſtle-grove, in which are ſome veſtiges of an ancient fortification.

About a mile S. S. W. from Tenham church, on the left hand of the High road, is a field called Sand Downs, encloſed on all ſides with a riſing bank, where is a large tumulus, ſituated in the middle of a ſmall wood.

Near the 46th ſtone, on a pleaſant eminence, is a manſion called Judd's houſe, built about the year 1652, by Daniel Judd, a committee man, and one of the ſequeſtrators: here was a manſion long before; the moat that almoſt ſurrounded it ſtill continues. This ſeat is at preſent the reſidence of James Flint, eſq; who holds the eſtate by leaſe from the dean and chapter of Rocheſter.

Between the 46th annd 47th ſtones is the village of Oſpringe, with a ſtream of clear ſpring water running acroſs it.

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On the north-ſide of the ſtreet are ſome faint traces of the Maiſon de Dieu, which was formely in great repute. It was founded by Lucas de Vienna, for the uſe of the knights templars. On the ſouth ſide of the ſtreet was an hoſpital for lepers and diſeaſed people, part of which ſtill remains. It was ſupported by the templars houſe. Oſpringe church is an old Gothic ſtructure. The round flint tower, on which ſtood the ſteeple, fell to the ground October 11, 1695.

Half a mile to the left of of Oſpringe, is the fair and flouriſhing ſea-port town of Faverſham, giving title to an extenſive hundred in the lath of Scray. It is ſituated on a navigable arm of the Swale, into which runs a beautiful rivulet, ariſing in the pariſh of Oſpringe, which affords a neceſſary back-water to the port or haven; the town principally conſiſts of four long, ſpacious and well-paved ſtreets, forming a ſomewhat irregular croſs, in the centre whereof ſtands a convenient market-place, over which is the guild-hall; it contains four hundred and ſixty houſes, and two thouſand five hundred inhabitants. Although the name of this town is certainly of Saxon original, yet, that it was inhabited by the Britons will ſcarcely admit of a doubt, ſince it is allowed, that the firſt ſettlement from the continent in Kent, was near a thouſand years prior to the invaſion of Julius Cæſar, and by late diſcoveries it amounts to a certainty that it had a being in the time of the Roman power in Britain; a Roman burying-ground hath been very lately found at Davington, adjoining to the high road, and near the northern bounds of the liberty of the town, which contained upwards of twenty urns, and ſome other veſſels of various ſizes, and different coloured earths; beſides ſeveral ſingle urns dug up elſewhere in its environs, as well as ſome medals of the Roman emperors, from the reign of Veſpaſion to that of Gratian, in 811, it was denominated the king's town; about 892, when king Alfred divided this kingdom into counties and their ſubdiviſions, it was of ſuch eminence

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eminence as to give title to the hundred in which it is ſituated; and about the year 930, it appears to have been capacious enough to afford entertainment to king Athelſtan and his great council, or parliament, of archbiſhops, biſhops, and wiſe men, who met here to enact laws, and conſtitute methods for the future obſervance of them. After the eſtabliſhment of William the conqueror, this town was regiſtered in doomſday; where, together with its manor, it continues to conſtitute a part of the royal revenue; in this record mention is made of its market, ſaid to be annually worth four pounds (equal at the very loweſt aſſigned computation, to ſixty pounds of our money) which is an undoubted proof that the town, at that early period, was a place of conſiderable traffic and reſort. Shortly after this, the ſaid king, in recompence for ſome ſignal ſervices performed by his countryman William of Ipre, granted to him this town and manor, in whom and his deſcendants it continued till the reign of king Stephen, who being greatly pleaſed with the town, and deſirous of erecting an abbey here, wherein he, his queen, and family might have their royal remains depoſited, gave to the ſaid William of Ipre in exchange, his queen Maud's hereditary eſtate with all its appertenances, for this town and manor; and in the year 1147, he cauſed an abbey to be built, which was dedicated to our ſaviour, and ſettled theſe, with ſome other eſtates, upon the ſame, to ſupport an abbot and twelve monks, taken from the monaſtery of Bermondſey in Southwark, of the order of Cluniacs. Of this abbey, which for ages diſpenſed its ſting to all oppoſers, and its honey, benedictions, and prayers, to all able purchaſers, none of its extenſive buildings now remain entire, its two gates being lately taken down, after attempts to preſerve them had proved fruitleſs, being, by age, become dangerous to paſſengers. The external walls, with thoſe of two or three ſkeletons of offices, unknown but by tradition, being all that are left.

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diſſolution, the clear yearly revenues of this monaſtery ounted to 284l. 15s. 5d. ¾, and a quarter and a half of ley. Although the greateſt part of theſe eſtates was ſoon er diſpoſed of to different perſons, yet the manor, and the ſt conſiderable part of the ſite and its demeans, continued the crown till the reign of Charles I. who in his fifth year anted them to Dudley Digges, of Chilham-caſtle, maſter the rolls, by whoſe will they came to his ſon John Digges, ; who ſoon after conveyed them to Sir George Sondes, ight of the Bath, afterwards created baron of Throw-gh, viſcount Sondes and earl of Faverſham; upon whoſe ath they deſcended to his only ſurviving daughter Catha-e, married to Lewis lord Rockingham, afterwards earl of ockingham, whoſe eldeſt ſon, George lord Sondes, dying his father's life-time, they came, upon the death of his andfather, to the Right Hon. Lewis earl of Rockingham, o dying without iſſue in 1745, was ſucceeded by his bro-r Thomas earl of Rockingham, upon whoſe deceaſe, ich happened ſoon after, the preſent Right Hon. Lewis rd Sondes, became the very reſpectable and moſt humane ſſeſſor of them. As to the public edifices in this town, the rochial church juſtly merits our firſt notice, eſpecially as is the only place of public divine worſhip belonging to the habitants. The preſent church ſeems to have been built the latter end of the reign of Edward I, or beginning of dward II; but there is great reaſon to think one was erec-d here in the times of the believing Romans; it is dedi-ted to St, Mary of Charity, and is in the form of a croſs, e walls whereof are of flint, quoined with Roman ſtone; had, till 1755, when it was taken down with the body, large ſquare caſtellated tower in the middle thereof.— There remains another low tower on the north ſide of the eſt front, upon which is erected a frame of timber covered ith ſhingles, in which is a tuneable peal of eight bells.

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Behind this tower, within the outer walls, is a ſtrong timbered room, formerly called the *treſory*, wherein, before the reformation, were carefully depoſited the goods and ornaments of the church. Over this was the chamber for the ſextons, with a door opening into the bell-loft. On the ſouth ſide of the weſt front is a room, formerly open to the church by ſemicircular arches, anciently uſed as a ſchool, and ſometimes courts temporal, and probably wardmotes, were holden here. Under this room is a neat chapel, with ſtone arches, ſupported by three pillars in the middle of it, which probably was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, as there is a memorial of one dedicated to her, ſaid to be in the church yard. Over the ſouth porch is another ſtone room, the window whereof is grated with ſtrong iron bars, but it does not appear to what uſe it was applied. In the year 1754 the nave or body of the church, on a proper ſurvey, being deemed in a hazardous ſtate, more eſpecially the roof thereof, and the ſouth-eaſt pier of the middle tower; which laſt, in the year 1708, had coſt the pariſhioners 54l. to ſecure, a faculty was obtained by the pariſhioners to pull it down, when greater damage appeared than could be conceived, for the great beam being of cheſnut timber, which ſupported the heavy platform covered with lead, upon the ſaid tower, was found to be ſo decayed at the ends which lay in the walls, as not to have two inches thickneſs of ſound timber remaining, the inner part being quite hollow with rotenneſs. The roof of the nave was ſupported by large ſquare low pillars, with ſemicircular arches between them, over which was a parapet wall, with ſeveral openings therein. Mr. George Dance, an eminent architect, of London, was engaged to draw a plan of the intended alterations, which were ſoon after carrried into execution under his direction.—The expence of this undertaking amounted to 2300l. which ſum was raiſed by annual aſſeſſments, and has been ſome time

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time fully discharged, with the assistance of the corporation; who, besides appropriating 500l. towards the work, expended 400l. in the purchase of a new organ, and afterwards erecting the new pews, the screen at the west door, and the two brass branches under the north and south arches. After this expensive work was finished, near 100l. was expended in improving the great chancel, which was become by age very unsightly. The inside of this elegant and spacious structure measures from east to west, including the chancel, 160 feet; the width of the body, 65 feet; the length of the isles from north to south, 124 feet; and their width 46 feet. Here are no galleries to obstruct the hearing, that for the organ being commodiously placed in the nich formed by the walls of the belfrey, and the writing school, over the entrance of the west door, the new screen terminating the front thereof. Before the reformation, besides the high altar in the great chancel, there were two chapels; one dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and another to St. Thomas, and divers altars erected in other parts of this church. There are several ancient monuments, some mural, some with brasses, and others without brasses, on the floor; These last, when the body and isles were new pewed, were carefully removed into more open and conspicuous parts On the north side of the church yard is the free grammar school, erected by the inhabitants, in consequence of a grant obtained from queen Elizabeth, in the 18th year of her reign; though the first foundation of a grammar-school in this town was laid by Dr. Cole, a Kentishman, one of the chaplains of the royal chapel, and warden of All-Souls college, Oxford; who, by indenture, dated the 10th of December, in the 18th year of Henry VIII, gave to the abbot and convent of Faversham, divers lands in the neighbourhood for maintenance of a school, wherein the novices of the abbey were to be instructed in grammar; but the dissolution happening soon after, the

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lands became invested in the crown, where they continued till the reign of queen Elizabeth, when the above charter was granted. By this charter, the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Faversham, and their successors, were appointed governors of the revenues of the said school, and that they should have a common seal to use in all matters relating to the same, but the master to be appointed by the warden or sub-warden, and six senior fellows of All Souls college, Oxford. A library for the use of the school has since been formed by divers benefactions, and an elegant whole length picture of the royal foundress has lately been placed in the school-room.* On the 9th of September 1716, two charity schools were established here for cloathing and instructing ten poor boys and ten poor girls belonging to the town; which have ever since continued to be supported by an annual subscription of the principal inhabitants. The last public edifice to be noticed is the market-house, which was erected in 1574; the timber necessary for compleating so useful an undertaking was given by Anthony Sands, esq; and several inhabitants of fourteen neighbouring parishes. This building, supported by pillars, and paved underneath with broad stones, is 44 feet 8 inches long, and 19 feet 7 inches wide. The rooms over the market have been used as a Guildhall, ever since the beginning of the reign of James I. On the area before the market-house, were formerly erected three rows of shambles tiled, which were private property; but they were purchased by the corporation and taken down, and temporary stalls are erected thereon. The fish-market is now kept under the north-east part of this house, where the fish-sellers are conveniently sheltered, and have plenty

* By Edward Jacob, esq; F. S. A. who, in 1774, published the history of this town and port to which we must beg leave to refer the reader for a more elaborate and curious description than the limits of our plan will admit of, and to which we are indebted for this extract.

of

of water near at hand. The market-days are Wednesday and Saturday; and the fairs are now kept for three days each, beginning on the 20th of Feb. and the 14th of August, but both markets and fairs are mere skeletons of what they formerly were. By means of the creek, which is the avenue to this town by water; the principal trade now carried on is by six hoys, three of which go alternately every week to London, with all sorts of corn, amounting in very plentiful years, to 40,000 quarters annually. Colliers also, which supply the town and neighbourhood with coals, of upwards of 100 tons burden, and larger vessels, which import fir timber, and iron, from Polish Prussia, Norway, and Sweden, frequently resort hither; the principal proprietors being chiefly inhabitants of this place. Here are also other vessels employed in carrying wool, apples, pears, and cherries to London and other parts in the season. The only staple commodity of this town is the oysters, taken in the fishing-grounds belonging to the manor of Faversham, which were not less esteemed in the time of the Romans, than they are at this day, as well at London, as in Holland and Flanders; to all which places vast quantities are sent annually.—By this trade only, not less than 110 families are principally supported. A considerable manufacture of that dreadful composition gunpowder, is carried on near this town by means of the delightful rivulet beforementioned, and also by horses. These works were private property till about fifteen years ago, when they were purchased by government, and are under the direction of the Board of Ordnance, which appoints proper officers to conduct the whole business. Upon the river are erected at various distances eleven sets of millstones, and five others that are worked by horses, all which are wholly employed for making the composition into powder; the quantity now made by these mills, when all are employed, is about eighty barrels per week, each weighing one

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one hundred pounds. To work in this hazardous employment there is never a want of hands, light labour and conſtant pay are two ſtrong inducements, eaſily prevailing over the fear of danger, that by uſe is found to be too little dreaded, eſpecially as the labourers are certain of proper care taken of them in all misfortunes. Not far from theſe royal powder mills, upon the Ore ſtream, there are gunpowder works in private hands, which make conſiderable quantities thereof, for the uſe of the Eaſt India company, and other merchants. Theſe mills are improving and enlarging every day, more particularly in the art of drying the gunpowder which is *there* effected by the means of a conſtant ſteam of hot water, conveyed under the copper frame whereon it is placed to dry. This new contrivance is ſaid to anſwer the purpoſe exceeding well.

Madder, the roots of which are ſo uſeful in dying reds and violets, has lately been cultivated in the neighbourhood of this town, and which was purſued with great eagerneſs about four or five years paſt; but the many heavy expences attending a plantation of this article, and its price at market being much lower than formerly, it is feared this undertaking will dwindle; a circumſtance much to be lamented, as it afforded employment for numbers of the induſtrious poor, at a ſeaſon of the year when moſt other kinds of labour without doors were finiſhed. The corporation of Faverſham conſiſts of a mayor and eleven jurats, and 24 commoners. The mayor is elected on the 30th of September, and the choice is in the freemen at large. The jurats are choſen by the mayor and the majority of the jurats; and the commoners are elected, one moiety by the mayor and jurats, and the other by the commoners. Beſides which there are a ſteward or recorder, town-clerk, two chamberlains, truſtees of the different charities, four auditors, and other inferior officers. The dredgers or oyſter-fiſhers, are under the juriſdiction and protection

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protection of the lord of the manor, who appoints a ſteward and a water-bailiff; the ſteward holds two admiralty courts annually, at which the foreman, treaſurer and other officers are choſen, and every perſon (having ſerved an apprenticeſhip of ſeven years to a freeman, and being himſelf a married man) may claim to be admitted to the freedom of the fiſhing grounds. Faverſham has uſually been eſteemed unhealthy, on account of its low ſituation; but by the pariſh regiſter, from 1756 to 1772, the annual average appears to be, baptiſms 71⅛, burials 75, marriages 20¾; ſo that only one in 34 of the pariſhioners die in a year, whereas in London, one in twenty-one die annually; and the addition of extra-parochial inhabitants, who, though not baptiſed, yet are commonly buried here, will bring the number of births and burials near even.

To the north-weſt of Faverſham, on the other ſide of the rivulet, is the chapel of Davington, where was an eminent nunnery, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and founded by Fulk de Newnham, in 1153, for a prioreſs and 26 benedictine nuns, of the order of Clunis. It ſeems that the revenue to ſupport them was ſo ſmall, that they obtained the name of the poor nuns of Davington. The chapel of this ancient religious houſe is now the pariſh church, the weſt-door of which ſtill remains entire, and is not unworthy of the travellers notice.

To the ſouth of Faverſham, near the road, is the ſmall, but neat church of Preſton, in which are ſeveral ancient monuments, particularly a fair alabaſter tomb, erected in 1629 by the firſt or great earl of Corke, in memory of his parents Roger and Joan Boyle, of whom the former died at Preſton March 24, 1576, and the latter at Faverſham March 20, 1586; and ſome three hundred years old.

At ſome diſtance to the right, in the pariſh of Shelwich, is Lees Court, the large and magnificent ſeat of lord Sondes:

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and to the left of the forty-ninth ſtone is Naſh-Court, a handſome and agreeable ſeat, belonging to Thomas Hawkins eſq; it has a balluſtrated terras on the top, and a fine green paddock in front, in which are ſome beautiful plantations.—The fiftieth ſtone is in the long ſtreet of Boughton, whoſe church is half a mile to the right, in which are ſeveral ancient monuments; it has three iſles and a good ſtone tower, but the ſpire fell down about the end of the laſt century.—Before the traveller reaches the fifty-firſt ſtone, he muſt aſcend Boughton-hill, from the ſummit of which we would wiſh him to look back, from whence, if the weather be clear, the proſpect will amply repay the loſs of a few minutes employed in viewing its various beauties and extent. This hill, and a track of land extending from it four miles towards Canterbury, was in ancient time counted a foreſt, and called Blean, in which were boars, bears, and other animals of chace. Here the high tower of Canterbury cathedral appears directly in the road. Between the fifty-third and fifty-fifth ſtones is the ancient village of Harbledown; the church is ſituate on a hill eaſt of the ſtreet, oppoſite to which is an hoſpital and chapel, originally built and endowed by archbiſhop Lanfranc, about the year 1084 for poor lepers. This was the place that formerly held the precious relick, called St. Thomas Becket's ſlipper, mentioned by Eraſmus, as the upper leather of an old ſhoe, adorned with criſtals, ſet in copper. The numerous pilgrims to the ſhrine of St. Thomas uſed to ſtop here, and kiſs this bauble, as a preparation for the more ſolemn approach to his tomb. Since the reformation, this hoſpital is continued for the relief of poor perſons, who have, beſides a houſe, a yearly ſtipend of near ſeven pounds each.

One mile farther brings us, to the ancient city of Canterbury.

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STAGE V.

Deſcription of Canterbury; Caſtle; St. Auguſtine's Monaſtery; Cathedral.—St. Stephen's.—Sturry.—Fordwich.—Sarr.—Reculver.—Thanet.—St. Nicholas.—Monkton.—Cleve.—Mount Pleaſant.—Minſter.—Birchington.—MARGATE.

CANTERBURY is the capital of the county of Kent, and the metropolitical ſee of the Archbiſhop, who is primate of all England. It ſtands in the north-eaſt part of the county, 56 miles from London, 16 from Margate, 17 from Ramſgate, 12 from Sandwich, 16 from Deal, 16 from Dover, 16 from Folkſtone, 18 from Hythe, 26 from New Romney, and 16 from Aſhford.

If the Traveller's taſte be huſbandry and agriculture, the extenſive hop-gardens and their management, cannot fail to attract his notice; if arts and mechaniſm, the worſted manufacturers and ſilk-weavers are certainly worth his viſiting; the latter not only for the beauty of their works, and curious contrivance of their looms, but the clearneſs of the air contributes much to the ſplendour of ſuch colours as ſuffer by the ſmoke of London, when manufactured in Spital-fields: but if antiquity, or architecture are his favourite ſtudies, he will have a more ample field to range in.

The city is ſeated in a pleaſant valley, about one mile wide, between hills of moderate height and eaſy aſcent, with fine ſprings riſing from them; beſide which the river Stour runs through it, whoſe ſtreams, often dividing and meeting again, water it the more plentifully, and forming iſlands of various ſizes, in one of which the weſtern part of the city ſtands, make the air good and the ſoil rich. Such a ſituation could

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hardly want inhabitants, while these parts had any inhabitants at all, nor was any spot more likely to unite numbers in forming a neighbourhood, or a city, than one so well prepared by nature for defence and situation. This perhaps is the most authentic voucher in favour of their opinion, who make it a city almost 900 years before the birth of Christ. Tokens of this high antiquity are hardly to be found, unless Druids beads, and the ancient brass weapons called Celts, which have been dug up in the neighbourhood, may be looked on as such. But of Roman remains here are abundance; for besides gates of their building, mosaic and other pavements, curious earthen ware, and coins innumerable, some preserved in collections, and others sold to the goldsmiths and braziers, have been discovered from time to time.

To give a short description of the city and its suburbs, we first begin with Ridingate, on the south-east side, in the road to Dover. Contiguous to this gate are two Roman arches, turned with the large and thin bricks of those times, remains of which are still visible, but the ground having been raised, the top of a stone pier, from which one of these arches sprung, is but breast-high from the road, and the arch itself cut away to give the necessary height to the present gate, of later construction. About two hundred yards westward is an artificial mount, from whence we have a pleasant prospect of the city and the country round. It is commonly called the Dungil, or Dane-John-hill, by others Donjon, or Dungeon, a high tower in old fortifications. This, and two smaller mounts not far from it, without the wall, are looked upon as the work of the Danes, when they besieged the city in king Ethelbert's time, though, probably, this mount within the wall was thrown up by the besieged, to counteract the operations of the besiegers; a practice not uncommon in those times. In going from hence to the castle, we pass by Wincheap-gap, through

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through which the road runs to Aſhford and the Weald of Kent. Within the boundary of the caſtle is the county ſeſſions-houſe, rebuilt in 1730; which, with the caſtle and its precinct, is exempt from the juriſdiction of the city. At the end of the ſeſſions-houſe is the old arch of Worthgate, built alſo entirely with Roman bricks, and through which formerly was one of the principal avenues to the city. Though the caſtle has no appearance of Roman antiquity, yet that the Romans had a caſtle here can hardly be doubted. The preſent building appears to have been the keep or donjon of a fortreſs within which it ſtood, and of which the bounds are ſtill diſcoverable, like that at the caſtles of Dover, Rocheſter, and the White Tower at London, and as it is built in much the ſame ſtile with them, may be about the ſame age. From hence we obſerve ſeveral breaches in the city-wall, which were made by the parliament forces in 1648, not in beſieging the town, but after they had marched in as conquerors, who at the ſame time took down the city gates and burnt them, and committed many perſons to priſon on ſuſpicion. Weſtgate, the next we come to, is the largeſt and beſt built of the whole, and though plain, makes a very handſome appearance, ſtanding between two lofty and ſpacious towers, founded in the river at the weſtern corners, embattled, portculliſed*, and machecollated†, and a bridge of two arches over the weſtern branch of the Stour at the foot of it. This gate has alſo the advantage of ſtanding open to

* The portcullis was a grate, ſpiked at the bottom, to let fall in caſe of ſurpriſe, with oppoſite grooves in the ſtone-work of the gate, to direct its fall and keep it in its place.

† Another old defence, being a parapet carried from tower to tower, with ſtone brackets projecting from the wall between them, ſo as to leave holes through which the defendants might pour down ſcalding water or other annoyances on thoſe who ſhould attempt to force the portcullis, or gate, without being themſelves expoſed to danger or view.

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a very long and wide ſtreet, being the entrance to the city from London. It is now the city priſon, both for debtors and criminals. Archbiſhop Sudbury is recorded as the builder of this gate, and of the wall, called the long wall; which runs northward, with the river parallel to the foot of it, till at an angle of each, it turns off round a ſmall meadow to a mill, where it again divides, and one of the branches approaching a poſtern, turns eaſtward, and receives that part of the Stour, which, entering the city at St. Mildred's, makes the weſtern part an iſland, and ran, till the year 1769, under three portculliſed arches of uncommon conſtruction, when they were demoliſhed, together with the wall, and the materials applied towards widening the paſſage over King's Bridge. From this breach the wall continues to Northgate, on the road to Reculver and the Iſle of Thanet, over which is a church, of uncommon length and narrowneſs, which takes its name from the gate. The tower of this church being in a ruinous condition, was taken down in 1773, and has ſince been rebuilt with brick. At this gate, the mayor and corporation uſed to receive the king in their formalities, when he paſſed through, after landing in Thanet, from foreign parts, and preſent him the keys. Next to this, eaſtward, was Queningate, of which a part of the Roman arch may yet be diſcovered on the outſide of the wall. Near this is a poſtern, opened occaſionally for the convenience of the Deanry and ſome of the prebendal houſes. This poſtern is oppoſite the front gate of St. Auguſtine's Monaſtery, as Burgate, to which we come next, is to its cemetery gate, which will be noticed hereafter. Burgate is on the road to Sandwich, Deal, and the Downs; it was new built about the year 1475. Continuing ſouth-eaſtward we ſoon arrive at St. George's, or Newingate, which gives name to the ward in which it ſtands, as the other five gates do to theirs reſpectively. It is built in imitation

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imitation of Weſtgate, and fortified in the ſame manner. In each tower of this gate is a ciſtern, from whence the city is ſupplied with excellent water, by pipes with public cocks. Juſt without it, under the city wall, a market for live cattle is kept every Saturday. Having deſcribed the ſeveral gates, it may be neceſſary to obſerve concerning the walls, that they are of chalk, faced and lined with flint, except the few Roman remains already mentioned, and that part like maſonry, pulled down for the improvement of King's bridge. The thickneſs is about ſix feet, and the parapet and battlements well coped with maſon's work, of hard ſtone, as were the tops and loop-holes of twenty-one ſquare or ſemicircular towers, built at proper diſtances, to command the ditch, which was 150 feet wide. The whole meaſure of the wall is ſomewhat leſs than a mile and three quarters.

From St. George's gate the preſent road runs to Dover, and a ſmall diſtance beyond Oaten-hill, ſtood the nunnery of St. Sepulchre, the walls of which are ſtill viſible, but the houſe is demoliſhed. Eaſt of St. Sepulchre, is St. Laurence, the ſeat of lord viſcount Dudley and Ward. This was formerly an hoſpital for lepers, founded by Hugh, the ſecond abbot of St. Auguſtine's, in 1447. Returning hence, towards Ridingate, we paſs over part of the ancient Watling-ſtreet, or Roman military way, which extended from Dover to Weſt Cheſter, and turning to the right, paſs St George's gate and Burgate, and arrive at St. Auguſtine's monaſtery. Mr. Somner ſays, Auguſtine the monk, the apoſtle of the Engliſh, obtained from Ethelbert, the firſt chriſtian king of Kent, a certain piece of ground, on which, with the king's help, he built this abbey, in the year 978; he alſo aſcribes the ſituation of it without the city walls, to its being deſigned by the king and the archbiſhop as a place of ſepulchre for them and their ſucceſſors; as by ancient cuſtom the ſepulchres

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chres of the dead were placed on the ſides of highways, of which there are many examples in the neighbourhood. Accordingly the cemetery was on the direct road from Burgate to Richborough; but the monks turned that road aſide thro' Longport, in order to ſecure the burying-place within their own incloſure, though a common footway lay through it many years after. The great gate of the cemetery, towards the town, is now converted into a dwelling-houſe, and that which came out near St. Martin's is walled up. The front of the abbey was to the weſt, and before the principal gate is a ſmall ſquare, toward Broad-ſtreet and the cathedral. At the diſſolution, Henry VIII. ſeized this as a palace for himſelf. The ſite of it was granted to cardinal Pole, for life, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary—In 1573, queen Elizabeth kept her court here in a royal progreſs; ſhe attended divine ſervice at the cathedral every Sunday, during her ſtay at Canterbury, and was magnificently entertained, with all her attendants, and a great concourſe of other company, by archbiſhop Parker, on her birth-day, at his palace. The monaſtery is now the property of Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St. Stephen's. The wall encloſes about ſixteen acres of ground; beſides which it had an almonry without its gate, which ſtill retains its name, and ſome tokens of its antiquity; but what contributed no ſmall ſhare towards reducing it to its preſent condition, perhaps might be this; when Henry VIII. ſeized the religious houſes, the gates of St. Auguſtine's were ſhut againſt him, till two pieces of cannon, placed on a hill near, made the monks haſten to deliver up their keys. However, enough remained entire to receive Charles I. at his wedding, and Charles II. at his reſtoration. When we enter, the firſt thing obſervable is Ethelbert's tower, ſuppoſed to be built about the year 1047, in which appears an arched vault, about twenty-five feet from the ground, and above, each of the corner towers on the north ſide had a newel ſtaircaſe

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caſe to the top of the tower, and corbels left at different ſtories of the building. What the dimenſions of the old abbey church were, can hardly be traced with any degree of certainty; though the ruins adjoining, and the marks diſcoverable on the walls, leave ſufficient room for conjecture. The weſt front extends about 250 feet, and the walls, which incloſe the whole precinct, are ſtanding; the great gate has buildings adjoining, wherein were ſome handſome apartments, and particularly a bedchamber, with a cieling very curiouſly painted; but the whole is now uſed as a public-houſe, and this apartment is converted into a brew-houſe, the ſteam of which has defaced the painting; the great court-yard is turned into a bowling-green, the fine chapel on the north ſide into a fives-court, and the great room over the gate into a cock-pit. At the diſſolution, the revenues of this monaſtery were valued at 1478l. 4s. 7d. The abbot was exempt from the archbiſhop's juriſdiction, and ſubject only to the pope. He wore the mitre and other ornaments of a biſhop; had a vote in parliament as a baron, and for many years, allowance of mintage and coinage of money, in right of his abbacy. At a ſmall diſtance eaſtward ſtands St. Martin's church, built of the ſame materials as the monaſtery. This church, and another where the cathedral now ſtands, are ſuppoſed to have been built by the Chriſtians of the Roman ſoldiery, in the ſecond century, and at the time of Lucius, the firſt chriſtian king, who lived in 182, ſo that it is looked on as one of the oldeſt ſtructures of that kind, now in conſtant uſe, in the kingdom. The walls, thoſe of the chancel particularly, are entirely of Roman brick, and the whole building is the moſt ſimple that is poſſible.

But to return into the city, through St. George's gate. At a ſmall diſtance on the right is the pariſh church of St. George; a little lower, on the oppoſite ſide, is the gate-way of the White Friars. Farther on, on the right, are the ſhambles

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ſhambles, which, till the year 1740, ſtood in the middle of the ſtreet; here alſo is a fiſh-market, lately eſtabliſhed, for the ſale of fiſh, toll-free. Adjoining is a public engine for weighing loads of hay; and near this is the corn-market, with a granary over it. This part of the ſtreet had a middle row of conſiderable length, conſiſting of the ſhambles, a fine conduit or water houſe of ſtone, and the pariſh church of St, Andrew. The conduit was pulled down in 1754, and the church in 1763; a new church is built juſt by, which was opened for the performance of divine ſervice Dec. 26, 1773, and conſecrated the July following. The weſt end of St. Andrew's church ſtood fronting the high ſtreet; on the ſouth ſide of which is the church of St. Mary Bredman; about the middle, on the north ſide, is the town-hall, a handſome and lofty building, with a ſpacious gallery over the door, and a ſtair-caſe on each ſide. On the ſide walls hang ſome match-locks, brown-bills, and other old weapons; but the upper end, where the court is kept, is furniſhed with pictures; a whole length of queen Anne being over the ſeat of the mayor, and ſeveral portraits on each ſide of it, of perſons who have been benefactors to the city. Behind the court is a large and handſome room, where the juſtices hold their monthly meetings, and ſome other public buſineſs; over it are the archives, where, beſides the records and charters, the chamberlain keeps the ſtandards for weights and meaſures, with the books and accounts of the city buſineſs. In this hall, a court of conſcience, for the recovery of ſmall debts, is held every Thurſday, and a court of burghmote from time to time. Canterbury being a county in itſelf, its magiſtrates have authority to determine all diſputes at law between the citizens, and to try for capital offences, committed within the city liberty, the mayor ſitting as judge, and pronouncing ſentence, aſſiſted by the recorder and bench of aldermen above the chair, who are all juſtices of the peace.

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Proceeding weſtward, on the left, is Jewry-lane, formerly inhabited by Jews, who had a ſchool or ſynagogue, till they were expelled the kingdom by Edward II. About twenty years ago, a fair moſaic pavement, of a carpet pattern, was diſcovered here, in digging a cellar, between three and four feet below the level of the ſtreet. The teſſelæ were of burnt earth, red, yellow, black, and white. A few paces farther brings us to King's or Eaſt bridge, with All Saints church. The way over this bridge, being very narrow, was widened in 1769, on which occaſion it was neceſſary to take down the ſteeple of the church, which ſtood quite into the ſtreet. Upon the bridge is an hoſpital, founded and endowed by St. Thomas Becket, for the purpoſe of receiving, lodging, and ſuſtaining poor pilgrims, for one night only, if in health, with right of burial in Chriſt-Church-yard, for ſuch as ſhould happen to die within the hoſpital. It was under the direction of a maſter, and a vicar under him; had twelve beds, and an aged woman to look after and provide neceſſaries for the pilgrims. The preſent building, though ancient, has a decent hall and chapel, where twenty boys are inſtructed gratis in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The ſchool-maſter, has an apartment in the houſe, as have alſo ten poor perſons, who receive an annual ſtipend of 6l. each, and ten others, who are not reſidents, have about 26s. a year from this foundation. The ſtreet from hence takes its name from St. Peter's church, ſituate on the right, about the middle of its length; but before we come to it, is the gateway of the Black or Dominican friars monaſtery, and oppoſite, that which leads to the ruins of one of the order of St. Francis. Adjoining to the latter is Cogan's hoſpital, founded in 1657, by John Cogan, D. D. for ſix widows of clergymen, who have each an apartment, and 10l. a year; Dr. Aucher, a late prebendary of the cathedral, left alſo a valuable eſtate towards their maintenance. Beyond St. Peter's church is the paſſage

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to two ſprings of mineral water, of different quality, though riſing within ſeven feet of each other. The waters have been preſcribed and taken with ſucceſs, from the firſt diſcovery of them in 1693, but were never ſo much in faſhion as to crowd the town with company. Almoſt oppoſite is the church of Holy Chroſs; in the reign of Richard II. the church was over the weſt gate, but it was taken down by archbiſhop Sudbury, and erected where it now ſtands. Weſtgate and its bridge are the boundary of the city juriſdiction; in the broad ſtreet without is the priſon for the eaſt part of Kent; not far from it the Jews, who reſide chiefly in this part of the ſuburbs, have a ſynagogue; and at the end is St. Dunſtan's church, a larger and fairer building than moſt in the city. In the family chancel of Roper, is preſerved a ſcull, ſaid to be that of the great Sir Thomas More; it is in a niche of the wall, ſecured with an iron grate; though it is ſaid his favourite daughter, Margaret Roper, who lies here, deſired to be buried with it in her arms. The vault, being full, was cloſed up a few years ſince.

Returning through Weſtgate, over King's-bridge, and turning to the right up Lamb-lane, we preſently come to the City Workhouſe, formerly an hoſpital for poor prieſts, but in 1574, was granted by queen Elizabeth to the mayor and commonalty of the city, who made uſe of it for the maintenance and lodging of ſeveral poor boys, and made part of it a houſe of correction; the boys uſually attend the mayor, when he goes to church in his formalities. In 1728, an act of parliament was procured to erect it into a workhouſe, for maintaining and employing the poor of the city, under a preſident and guardians incorporated for that purpoſe. Continuing up Stour-ſtreet, on the left are Maynard's and Cotton's hoſpitals; the one founded by Mr. John Maynard in 1317, and the other by Leonard Cotton, Eſq; in 1605; for four brothers and ſix ſiſters, who have each 7 l. a year and a houſe.

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houſe. At the end of Stour-ſtreet is St. Mildred's church, at the weſt end of the ſouth ile of which is a fair arch of Roman brick, and in the church-yard ſome viſible remains of the Roman wall. Paſſing through the poſtern, and turning to the left, we enter Wincheap, where are ſome almshouſes, built by Mr. Harris in 1726, for five poor families. From hence, entering the city again through Wincheap-gap, we paſs over Chapel-yard, the burying-place of three pariſhes in the city, which have no ground belonging to them; down Caſtle-ſtreet, and acroſs Watling-ſtreet to St. Margaret's church; in which is an eccleſiaſtical court, where the archbiſhop, archdeacon, and the archbiſhop's commiſſary hold their ſeveral viſitations; and alſo a court, wherein cauſes of defamation, fornication, and other eccleſiaſtical diſputes are tried. Near the church is the old Fiſh-market, and at the corner of the ſtreet, one of the largeſt and moſt elegant aſſembly-rooms, built by a private owner, in the kingdom. Croſſing High-ſtreet, we enter Mercery-lane, in which was the Chequer-inn, made famous by Chaucer, which took up almoſt half the weſt ſide of it, beſides reaching a conſiderable way down the high ſtreet; then leaving the Butter-market, over which is the Theatre, on the right, we approach the cathedral precinct.

But, before we proceed, it may be neceſſary to obſerve, with reſpect to the city in general, that it formerly had 17 churches within the walls, and three in the ſuburbs, though only 15 of them now remain. But the Jews, Preſbyterians, Quakers, Methodiſts, and Baptiſts, have each houſes of public worſhip. The markets are regularly and plentifully ſupplied with every neceſſary of life; and the ſhops are filled not only with conveniences, but luxuries of every kind. In 1774, an elegant concert-room was erected by a ſubſcription of the citizens. The corporation of the city conſiſts of a mayor, recorder, 12 aldermen, chamberlain, town-clerk,

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24 common-council, and inferior officers. It ſends two members to parliament, who are elected by the freemen, of whom there are, reſident and non-reſident, upwards of 1400.

We now return to Chriſt-Church-gate, an elegant Gothic ſtructure, built in the year 1517, as appears by a Latin inſcription in the cornice. On entering, our attention is attracted by the Oxford ſteeple, a tower 130 feet high, at the ſouth-weſt corner of the body of the church, with four handſome pinnacles, very ſtrongly built, and buttreſſed from the ground to the top, in which is a fine peal of eight bells, and a clock, which ſtrikes the quarters on two of them, as it does the hours on one much larger than any of the peal, (weighing 7500 pounds,) which hangs above the leaden platform, under a ſhed. As we proceed, the view finely opens, and diſplays the ſouth ſide of the body, part of the weſtern croſs ile, and that ſtately tower, called Bell-Harry ſteeple, whoſe height is 235 feet, which for the elegant proportions of the building itſelf, and of its ornaments, is perhaps the completeſt ſtructure of the kind any where to be ſeen. It was begun by prior Selling, and finiſhed by his ſucceſſor, Thomas Goldſtone, aſſiſted by archbiſhop Morton. On its top hangs a ſmall bell, called Bell Harry, which is tolled every day for prayers, but never rung, except on the death of the king, queen, or archbiſhop. A little farther eaſtward, is the tower, called that of St. Peter and St. Paul, till the ſhrine of St. Anſelm was placed in it, and it became his chapel. This, and one dedicated to St. Andrew, on the north ſide of the church, have been much more lofty than they are at preſent. They are looked upon as the oldeſt parts of the building. From the ſouth-weſt corner of St. Anſelm's chapel we paſs through the cemetery-gate, which parted the burying-ground of the laity from that of the monks, which brings to view the fine chapel of the Holy Trinity, built in a different ſtile, but by no means inferior

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in beauty. This chapel contained the ſhrine of St. Thomas Becket, and was called after his name, as was alſo the church till the diſſolution. Devotees to this ſaint came from all quarters, and offerings poured in ſo faſt, that his ſhrine grew as famous for its riches as its holineſs. Eraſmus, who viſited it, ſays, "a coffin of wood, which covered a coffin of "gold, was drawn up by ropes and pullies, and then an "invaluable treaſure was diſcovered; gold was the meaneſt "thing to be ſeen there; all ſhined and glittered with the "moſt precious jewels, of an extraordinary bigneſs; ſome "were larger than the egg of a gooſe." At the eaſt end of this chapel, is another circular one, called Becket's crown, in which, it is ſaid, his ſcull was preſerved as a relick. This building was unfiniſhed at the diſſolution, when Henry VIII. put a ſtop to the works and oblations at once, ſeized on the treaſures and eſtates of the monaſtery, provided for the members of it as he pleaſed, and eſtabliſhed the cathedral on the new foundation of a dean, 12 prebendaries, and other officers and ſervants. It now recovered its ancient name of Chriſt Church; additions in honour of St. Thomas were no longer thought of, and his crown had but a ragged appearance, till about 1748, when Capt. Humphry Pudner, of this city, gave 100l. towards completing it; which money brought it to its preſent condition. The north ſide of the church differs little from what we have been examining, but it is not ſo acceſſible; for here were the offices of the ancient monaſtery, ſome parts of which ſtill remain, converted into dwelling-houſes; here alſo are the library, the audit-room, the chapter-houſe, and cloyſter, which to deſcribe would far exceed the limits of our plan; we therefore proceed to the Arundel ſteeple, at the north-weſt corner of the church. This tower appears to be in a ruinous ſtate, being ſo full of cracks as to require ſtrengthening with iron-work; it had formerly a ſpire, 100 feet high, on its top; but that being damaged

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damaged in the great ſtorm in November 1703, it was taken down ſoon after. Its preſent height is 100 feet.

We now enter, by the porch at the foot of the Oxford ſteeple, into the body of the church; which meaſures, from the weſt door to the choir ſteps, 178 feet; from north to ſouth, including the ſide iles, 71 feet; and in height, to the vaulted roof, 80 feet. The fine arches over head, ſo moderately adorned with well-proportioned ornaments; the lofty pillars, ſo well diſpoſed for diſtributing that light which the windows admit in great plenty; and the agreeable length of the walk between them, augments the pleaſure, till we arrive at the flight of ſteps which lead up to the door of the choir, and give us a view of the rich ſcreen at the entrance, as well as of the croſs iles on each hand, and the dazzling height of the inſide of the noble tower called Bell Harry ſteeple. All theſe particulars, ſo finely adjuſted, can hardly fail of giving great pleaſure to thoſe who ſurvey them with any degree of attention. The choir is thought to be the moſt ſpacious of any in the kingdom, being 180 feet in length, from the weſt door to the altar, and 38 in breadth, between the two ſide doors. The ſtalls for the dean and prebendaries are ſix on each ſide of the entrance; they are of wainſcot, divided by neat fluted pillars and pilaſters, with capitals of the Corinthian order, ſupporting arched canopies, and a front elegantly carved with crowns, ſceptres, mitres, and rich foliage, with ſuitable frieſe and cornice. The wainſcotting on each ſide, as far as the archbiſhop's throne, is in the ſame taſte, though not quite ſo rich in its ornaments. In 1704, the old monkiſh ſtalls, which were in two rows on each ſide the choir, were removed, and the preſent handſome ranges of ſeats erected in their ſtead; archbiſhop Teniſon, on this occaſion, gave the preſent throne. The whole is of wainſcot; the canopy, and its ornaments, raiſed very high on ſix fluted pillars of the Corinthian order, with

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with proper impoſts. It is ſaid to have coſt 244l. 8s. 2d. At the right hand of the throne is a ſeat or pew for the archdeacon. The altar-piece was deſigned by Mr. Burrough, fellow of Caius college, Cambridge. It is alſo of the Corinthian order, very lofty, and well executed. A handſome wainſcotting is continued from the altar-piece to the two ſide doors of the choir, in a taſte deſigned to diſtinguiſh this part (the chancel or preſbyterium) from the reſt of the choir. From the altar-rail the pavement is of black and white marble, in a fancied pattern; at ſeven or eight feet diſtance is a noble flight of ſix ſteps, of veined white marble, reaching the whole breadth of the place. Above theſe the pavement is continued near 20 feet, in a pattern ſuitable to that below them. The communion plate, which is of gilt ſilver, is very elegant. The organ, ſituate on the north ſide of the choir, was new built in 1753, excepting that the old front was preſerved. The middle ſpace of the choir is illuminated, during the winter months, by two braſs ſconces, of twenty-four lights each, as is the body by a number of glaſs lanterns, fixed againſt the pillars. Behind the altar, is the beautiful chapel of the Holy Trinity, in the middle of which ſtood the ſhrine of St. Thomas Becket. Part of the floor is curiouſly inlaid with moſaic work. It contains the throne, or epiſcopal chair, the ſeat of which is compoſed of three pieces of grey marble; alſo the monuments of Henry IV. and his queen, Edward the Black Prince, cardinal Chattilon, archbiſhop Courtney, cardinal Pole, dean Wotton, and one ſaid to be that of archbiſhop Theobald; but this is doubtful. In the north ile, are the monuments of archbiſhops Chichley and Bourchier; and in the ſouth, thoſe of archbiſhops Walter, Reynolds, Kemp, Stratford, and Sudbury. The croſs ile contains the chapel of St. Anſelm, as it did alſo his tomb, of which there are now no remains; but thoſe of archbiſhops Mepham and Bradwardin are ſtill in being. The mural monuments

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ments on the north ſide of the body are of Thomas Sturman, auditor of this church; Orlando Gibbons, organiſt to king Charles I. Adrian Seravia, John Turner, and Richard Colf, prebendaries; and Sir John Boys, founder of Jeſus Hoſpital. On the ſouth ſide are thoſe of John Porter, and John Simpſon, eſqrs. and another of the name of Berkley. Beſide theſe, there are three ancient table tombs, ſaid to be of the archbiſhops Iſlip and Wittleſey, and a Dr. Lovelace; alſo a ſmall chapel, which contains two handſome monuments of the Nevils. The north croſs, or martyrdom, is the place where Becket fell into the hands of thoſe who killed him. Here are the monuments of archbiſhops Peckham and Warham, doctors Chapman, Fotherby, and Clarke; alſo the fine chapel of the Virgin Mary, which contains thoſe of the deans Rogers, Fotherby, Bargrave, Boys, and Turner. In the ſouth croſs, are thoſe of Mrs. Holcombe, Dr. John Batteley, Mrs. Jane Hardres, and Mr. Herbert Randolph. On the eaſt ſide is the chapel of St. Michael, where are the monuments of archbiſhop Langton; earl of Somerſet and his lady, and the duke of Clarence, her ſecond huſband; Col. William Prude, killed at the ſiege of Maeſtricht in 1632; ſir Thomas Thornhurſt, killed at the Iſle of Rhee in 1627; lady Thornhurſt; dame Dorothy Thornhurſt; Mrs. Anne Milles; ſir George Rooke; ſir James Hales; and brigadier Francis Godfrey. In the undercroft are thoſe of archbiſhop Morton, Iſabella counteſs of Athol, and lady Mohun.

We do not here attempt to deſcribe the various beauties of theſe venerable and magnificent memorials of the deceaſed, nor the very rich, but not profuſe, ornaments, which adorn this noble ſtructure, as we would not wiſh to anticipate the pleaſure a traveller might receive in viewing them. Perſons always attend, to give information in theſe particulars; but as that may not be ſatisfactory to an inquiſitive mind, we ſhall refer him to the elaborate treatiſe of Mr. Somner, or to a little

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little work, entitled '*A Walk in and about the City of Canterbury*,' publiſhed in 1774, by a gentleman*, no leſs eſteemed for his extenſive knowledge of antiquity, than for his affability and readineſs to communicate that knowledge to every enquirer into the works of nature or art.

In this church are a dean, 12 prebendaries, 6 preachers, and 6 minor canons, beſides lay-clerks, choriſters, &c. And in the Mint-yard, within its precinct, is a public grammar-ſchool, founded by Henry VIII. wherein 50 boys are inſtructed, with a quarterly allowance for the purchaſe of books. It is under the direction of two maſters, both clergymen. The ſchool-houſe was formerly the chapel of the almonry, built by Henry Eaſtry, prior, in 1318.

From Canterbury the road to Margate lies through Northgate, and at a little diſtance from the end of the ſtreet, we have a full view, on the left, of St. Stephen's church, and the fine new ſeat of ſir Edward Hales, bart. extending itſelf 538 feet in front, with a ſpacious lawn before it, and the wings and back part encompaſſed with beautiful plantations. Two miles from Canterbury is Sturry, where we croſs the river Stour, which in this part is ſometimes rendered dangerous by floods; but a large ſum of money has been lately raiſed by ſubſcription to build a ſubſtantial bridge over it, and the deſign is now putting in execution †. About a quarter of a mile to the right, is Fordwich, which, though it has the appearance only of a mean village, is incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Fordwich, is a member of the town and port of Sandwich, and enjoys the ſame privileges as the cinque ports. It is ſituate on the Stour, which is navigable for ſmall veſſels to the town; though there is reaſon to think it was once much nearer the ſea; and very probably the Portus Trutulenſis was

* The Rev. William Goſtling, a native of Canterbury, and minor canon of the cathedral.

† The firſt ſtone was laid July 4, 1776.

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that part of this large haven, where the Stour entered it, and derives it name from thoſe excellent trouts, for which this place yet continues famous. The Stour, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, was made navigable as high as Canterbury. In ancient times there appear to be two rivers of this name, which are ſuppoſed to have fallen into the Wantſum, at Stourmouth. There are two rivers ſtill, one the Greater, the other the Leſſer Stour, and both, as far as we can judge, were formerly navigable, but never as a joint ſtream, the former falling into the Wantſum at Stourmouth, and the latter at ſome diſtance from it. In reality, there have been great and manifeſt changes in the face of the country, and the courſe of the rivers, in this part of Kent; but however different their ſituation from what they are at preſent, we have no authority to ſuppoſe that either of theſe rivers ever admitted veſſels of any ſize, or communicated with the ſea, otherwiſe than by the arm of it, called the Wantſum.

Near ſix miles from Canterbury is Upſtreet, from whence we deſcend into the marſhes, formerly covered by the Wantſum, the arm of the ſea which ſeparated Thanet from the main land of Kent, now contracted to a ditch, and arrive at Sarr, another member of the port of Sandwich. This place was once in a flouriſhing condition, lying in the bay of Rutupium, and conſequently a port; of which there is not barely credible tradition, authenticated in the laſt age from the mouths of competent witneſſes, who had themſelves ſeen not only boats, but even barks of a tolerable ſize paſs quite through to the north mouth: but both here and at other places in Thanet, are viſible marks remaining, of the little creeks and havens, in which veſſels formerly lay; and their charters prove this, beyond the power of doubting, as to its certainty. Three miles to the left, is Reculver, the Regulbium of the Romans, ſituated on a riſing ground on the weſt ſide of the Yenlade, (though it ſeems to have ſtood origi-

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originally in an iſland, formed by that river) and cloſe by the ſea ſhore. It is at preſent joined to Kent, without any ſign of its having ever been ſeparated, and is divided from Thanet only by a little brook, (the Yenlade) which falls into the ſea at North-Mouth. Severus, emperor of Rome, is ſaid to have built a caſtle at Reculver, like that of Richborough. Great quantities of Roman and Saxon coins, urns, and other curioſities have been found here. Ethelbert, king of Kent, built a palace, and reſided here, as did many of his ſucceſſors; and Baſſa, an Engliſh Saxon lord, founded here a rich abbey, in 650; but there are now ſcarce the leaſt remains of either. The preſent church is very ancient, and had in it a moſt ſumptuous choir. The weſt door, in its primitive ſtate, was very noble, and is ſtill a curious remain of Saxon architecture; over it are two lofty ſpires, known by the name of the Two Sifters, which are very uſeful to mariners navigating this part of the coaſt of Kent.

The Iſle of Thanet, which we enter at Sarr, is celebrated for being the door through which arts, ſcience, and divine knowledge came into this happy iſland. The Britons called it Richborough Iſle, from its vicinity to the city of that name. The Saxons denominated it Thanet, from a word in their language which ſignifies fire; conjectured to have been ſo named from the many beacons erected in it, to give warning againſt the common enemy. The extent of the iſland is about nine miles from eaſt to weſt, and eight from north to ſouth. It contains ten pariſhes, and had formerly as many churches, though now only ſeven remain. The ſoil in general is very fertile, and through the good management of its occupiers, produces ſuch crops of grain, in favourable ſeaſons, as are ſcarcely to be equalled. To the left of the road, ten miles from Canterbury, is the genteel village of St. Nicholas. The church is a fair handſome building, but contains no monuments prior to the year 1500. About the

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ſame diſtance to the right, is the ſmall town of Monkton, or Monktown, ſo called from being the property of the monks, who uſually reſided here. In the church, which appears to have been larger than at preſent, are collegiate ſtalls, and the heads of ſeveral priors in the remains of painted glaſs in the windows. About thirteen miles from Canterbury, on the right, is Cleve, the new-built ſeat of Joſias Fuller Farrer, eſq; which commands a fine view of the ocean, and of the adjacent country. A quarter of a mile to the right of Cleve, is Mount-Pleaſant, a public-houſe, built on an eminence, and much admired for its beautiful and extenſive proſpects. Half a mile from hence, near the marſhes, is the ancient, but ſmall town of Minſter. Domneva, daughter of Ercombert, king of Kent, built and founded an abbey at this place, about the year 670, and furniſhed it with veiled virgins, to the number of ſeventy; herſelf becoming the firſt abbeſs. Mildred, her daughter, ſucceeded her, and ſo far excelled her mother in piety, that ſhe was canoniſed a ſaint, and the nunnery ever after was called by her name. It was deſtroyed by the Danes about the year 990. The church is the handſomeſt, though moſt ancient ſtructure in the iſland; it conſiſts of three iles, and has eighteen collegiate ſtalls in the choir. On the floor, and in the church-porch, are ſeveral large flat grave-ſtones, which are very ancient. In the laſt century, a pot of Roman ſilver coins was plowed up near Minſter; they were chiefly of Lucius Aurelius Verus. On the left is Birchington, a member of the town and port of Dover. The church is a neat building, and contains ſeveral ancient and modern monuments of the Queke and Criſpe families, who reſided at the ancient manſion in this pariſh, called Quekes, or Quex. At this houſe king William III. uſed to reſide, till the winds favoured his embarking for Holland. A room, ſaid to be the bedchamber of this royal gueſt, is ſtill ſhewn, together with an adjacent encloſure, in which

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which his guards encamped. We next pass by the poor remains of the chapel of Wood, about fifteen miles from Canterbury. It is a limb of the town and port of Dover, and is supposed to take its name from its ancient sylvan situation. Between the cliff and this chapel is Dandelion, the seat of the very ancient family of Dent-de-Lion, which may be traced from Edward I. through many generations; some of this family lie in Margate church. This house has been very strong, and a good defence against bows and arrows, as appears from its venerable remains, which are a gate-house, built with bricks and flints, in separate layers; over the gate are the arms of that ancient family. Near this place, in the year 1724, were found, in digging a way to the sea, about two feet under the surface, twenty-seven instruments made of bell-metal, of various lengths and breadths, some about seven inches long and two broad, with a hollow at one end for a wooden haft; they are supposed to have been chizzels used by the Roman soldiers.

STAGE VI.

Description of Margate.—Drapers.—Hackendown Banks.—King's Gate.—North Foreland.—Broadstairs.—Goodwin Sands.—St. Peter's.—Ramsgate.—Ebbsfleet.—Stonar.—Richborough.—SANDWICH.

MARGATE, or St. John's, is situated on the north side of the island, within a small bay in the breach of the cliff, where is a gate to the sea, from whence it has its name; it is 72 miles from London, and about 16 from Canterbury. In all matters of civil jurisdiction Margate is subject

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ject to the mayor of Dover, whoſe deputy reſides here, and of which town and port it is a member. The principal ſtreet is near a mile in length, and built on an eaſy aſcent, by which means the upper part is clean and dry, and the lower end much more ſo than formerly; a conſiderable ſum of money having been lately expended in drains for that purpoſe. The harbour is pleaſant, but not greatly frequented, for want of a ſufficient depth of water to keep veſſels of burden afloat; nevertheleſs, immenſe quantities of corn, and all kinds of grain, are ſhipped here for London. The pier of wood carried out to the eaſtward, in a circular form for the ſecurity of ſhipping, is built where nature, by a cove in the cliff, ſeemed to direct, and is very ancient; as we find it in a ruinous ſtate in the reign of Henry VIII. and in that of Elizabeth, certain rates on corn, &c. impoſed for keeping it in repair; notwithſtanding it continued in an indifferent ſtate till the year 1724; when an act of parliament was granted, for empowering the inhabitants to collect ſundry duties on all ſhips trading to and from it, and wardens were alſo inveſted with proper authority to receive and expend the money. Though Margate, in ſummer, is a pleaſant and agreeable ſituation, yet what has given it ſo great an eclat in the *beau monde*, is its conveniency for bathing; the ſhore being level and covered with fine ſand, is extremely well adapted for that purpoſe. On the wharf are ſeven bathing-rooms, which are large and convenient. Here the company reſort to drink the water, and from whence, in turns, they enter the machines, which are driven out into the ſea, often to the diſtance of two or three hundred yards, under the conduct of careful guides. There is a door at the back of the machine, by which the bathers deſcend into the water, by means of a ladder, and an umbrella of canvas is let down, which conceals them from public view. There are often near thirty of theſe machines employed till near the time of high water.

Mr.

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Mr. Benjamin Beale, a Quaker, was the inventor of them. Their ſtructure is ſimple, but quite convenient; and by means of the umbrella, the pleaſures of bathing may be enjoyed in ſo private a manner, as to be conſiſtent with the ſtricteſt delicacy. Since Margate has been ſo much frequented by perſons of conſequence, many conſiderable additions and improvements have been made to the town. A large ſquare has been lately erected, in which are ſome very handſome houſes, built by perſons of fortune for their own uſe, with ſeveral others intended for the reception of the nobility and gentry. It is paved after the ſame manner as the ſtreets in London. On one ſide of it is a noble and commodious aſſembly-room, finiſhed with great elegance and taſte, and ſuppoſed to be one of the largeſt buildings of the kind in England, which commands a delightful view of the ſea. It is eighty feet in length, and forty-three in breadth, of a fine height, and richly ornamented. Adjoining to this are apartments for tea and cards, which are ſpacious and perfectly convenient. Over theſe is a flight of bedchambers, neatly furniſhed, for the accommodation of ſuch perſons as are not provided with other lodgings at their firſt coming. The ground floor conſiſts of a billiard-room, and a large apartment for the uſe of public entertainments, which belongs to, and communicates with the Hotel, and of a large piazza, which extends the whole length of the building. The number of ſubſcribers to theſe rooms often amount to near one thouſand in a ſeaſon. The public amuſements are regularly conducted by Mr. Walker, maſter of the ceremonies. Beſides the tavern in the ſquare, there is the New Inn, kept by Mitchener, by the water-ſide; it is much frequented both as a good inn and tavern, and has a billiard-table and coffee-room. Mitchener has alſo erected two new warm ſalt-water baths, on a moſt excellent conſtruction, which are very elegant, and built at a great expence; they are cleared in a few minutes,

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minutes, and may be brought to any degree of temperature required, with the utmoſt eaſe. And with truth it may be ſaid, that their uſe has been attended with ſingularly good effects. There are ſeveral good lodging-houſes beſides thoſe in the ſquare, and their rooms, though in general ſmall, are neat; it may be ſaid commodious, when it is conſidered, that many of them are now applied to a uſe for which they were not originally intended. However, many have been built of late years expreſsly with an intention of their being hired for lodgings, and the old ones are daily receiving all the improvements they are capable of. Boarding-houſes are likewiſe kept in a decent, reputable manner, for the convenience of ſmall families, or ſingle perſons. Several phyſicians reſide at Margate during the ſeaſon. As to the efficacy of ſea-bathing, we can only ſay, that in all caſes where bathing can be of ſervice, this muſt be, at leaſt, equal to any other, and in all cutananeous diſorders, or where the complaints are external, greatly ſuperior. After bathing it is cuſtomary to walk. The places moſt frequented for this purpoſe are, the ſquare, the fort, and the rope-walk; though when the tide is ebbed, the company go often on the ſands, to collect ſhells, pebbles, ſea-weeds, &c. many of which are to be met with in and about Margate. The ſands extend for ſome miles along the ſhore, quite ſmooth and dry at low water, and may be paſſed, with ſafety, ſix hours in the day. The ocean on one hand, and the caverns and grottoes worn in the high chalky cliff, on the other, form a ſcene together moſt pleaſingly romantic. In fine weather, parties frequently go off to ſea for the diverſion of fiſhing, or to viſit the ſhips which lie at anchor in the roads. When the weather is windy or wet, here are two circulating libraries*, well ſtocked with books, for the amuſement of company within doors. The preſent play-houſe is but an indifferent one, though it

* Hall's near the Pier, and Silver's at the New Rooms.

has

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has lately received ſome improvements. A company of comedians perform three nights in the week. The poſt comes in from and returns to London every day, during the ſeaſon, by an order from the general poſt-office, without any additional expence to the company. Two machines run every day to Canterbury, to meet the coaches which come in there from London, and return with paſſengers to Margate the ſame evening. Proviſions in general are good, and moderately cheap. Large quantities of fiſh are taken, the fineſt of which bear a good price, the reſt are ſold reaſonably. Wines, brandy, &c. are cheap and good; complaints having been formerly made with reſpect to the firſt of theſe articles, no expence has been ſpared to prevent them in future. Margate is now as well ſupplied with ſhops as moſt other public places, and there are many very reputable tradeſmen, in all branches of buſineſs. The various articles of trade are moſtly furniſhed by a ready and quick communication with London, by the hoys. Were it not for the aſſiſtance of theſe veſſels, it would be almoſt impoſſible for Margate and the country round to furniſh entertainment for the vaſt numbers of people who reſort thither. They are ſloops of 80 or 100 tons burden. There are five of them, which ſail in alternate weeks. Their ſtation in the Thames is at Wool-quay, near the Cuſtom-houſe. They uſually ſail from London on Wedneſday or Thurſday, and from Margate on Friday or Saturday. Paſſengers (of whom there are ſometimes 60 or 70) pay only 2s. 6d. for themſelves, and the freight of baggage, unleſs very bulky, does not much exceed ſixpence per hundred weight. A yacht alſo has been fitted up in a neat and commodious manner, for the conveyance of paſſengers. The general price of the paſſage is 2s. 6d. for each perſon, or the beſt cabin may be hired on reaſonable terms; and is capable of bringing down a very large family or party of company, with all their ſervants and baggage. The paſſage is

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often made in eight or ten hours, and at other times in two or three days, as the wind and tide happen to ſuit. The beſt wind down is W. N. W. and the beſt up E. S. E. The hoy, like the grave, confounds all diſtinction; high and low, rich and poor, ſick and ſound, are indiſcriminately blended together; it can therefore be no wonder, if the humours of ſuch a motly crew, of all ages, tempers, and diſpoſitions, ſhould now and then ſtrike out ſuch diverting ſcenes as muſt neceſſarily baffle the poſſibility of deſcription.—Upon the whole, the paſſage is cheap, and, with a fair wind and good weather, extremely pleaſant and agreeable; but it is not to be recommended to ladies of great delicacy. To take away every apprehenſion of danger, it may be ſufficient to ſay, that it is now more than 140 years ſince a hoy from this place was loſt. The maſters are decent, careful men, and allow of no impropriety of behaviour, which they can prevent: the buſineſs they tranſact is incredible. The church at Margate is dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, which was the ancient name of the pariſh. It was formerly a chapel to Minſter, and is ſuppoſed to have been built about the year 1050, and made parochial ſince 1290: in it are ſeveral ancient monuments. At Drapers, in the neighbourhood, is an hoſpital, founded by Michael Yoakley, of the pariſh of St. John. It was built in 1709, and conſiſts of ten dwelling-houſes; one of which is appropriated for an overſeer, and the others for poor men and women of the adjoining pariſhes. They are allowed coals, and enjoy a weekly ſtipend. This inſtitution being entirely calculated for the relief of indigence, not for the encouragement of idleneſs, the founder, in his will, has ſpecified the qualifications of ſuch as are to be admitted; they muſt be induſtrious, and of a meek, humble, and quiet ſpirit. The paupers are chiefly Quakers.

To the left from Margate, between Northdown and King's Gate, are Hackendown Banks; two tumuli or barrows of earth,

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earth, which mark the ſpot whereon a bloody battle was fought between the Danes and Saxons, in 853. The concurrent teſtimony of hiſtory, long tradition, the etymology of the word, (field of battle-axes,) and more particularly, the urns and bones found buried in them, leave little room to queſtion the truth of this action. One of theſe banks was opened on the 23d of May 1743, by Mr. Thomas Read, owner of the lands, in the preſence of many hundred people. A little below the ſurface were found ſeveral graves, cut out of the ſolid chalk, and covered with flat ſtones; they were not more than three feet in length, into which the bodies had been thruſt, bent almoſt double. Several urns, made of coarſe earthen ware, capable of containing about two or three quarts each, had been buried with them, which crumbled into duſt on being expoſed to the air. Aſhes and charcoal were found in them. Many of the bones were large, but not gigantic, and for the moſt part perfectly ſound. In June, 1765, the ſmaller tumulus was opened, by order of the late Henry lord Holland, who had then purchaſed the lands. The appearances were much like the former, with this exception only, that no urns were found. The beſt hiſtorians of thoſe times inform us, that the battle was fought ſo near the ſea, that great numbers were puſhed over the cliff during the action; and it ſeems probable, that moſt of the ſlain were thrown over afterwards, as no other remains of bodies have ever been found near the place. To perpetuate the memory of this action, lord Holland has erected a monument, with a proper inſcription, on the larger of theſe banks, in a ſtile of antiquity. At a ſmall diſtance from hence, is a breach in the cliff, formerly called Bartholomew's Gate, from a tradition, that it was finiſhed on the feſtival of that ſaint, but now King's Gate; which name, as appears by an inſcription over the portal, it received by order of king Charles II. who landed here, with the duke of York, in his

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paſſage from Dover to London, on the 30th of June, 1683. At this place, ſituated on a ſmall but pleaſant bay, ſtands the delightful ſeat of the late lord Holland, now of the honourable Mr. Charles Fox, built on a very different plan from any other houſe in the kingdom; the whole being intended (by its architect, ſir Thomas Wynn *,) to reſemble an Italian villa; but more particularly that of Tully's Formian villa on the coaſt of the bay of Baiæ, near the city of Puzzolo, one of the moſt celebrated in the Roman ſtate, upon the eve of the Auguſtan age, when all the polite arts were at the zenith of their glory. The ſaloon of Neptune, and ſome other of the apartments are very fine. On the front of the houſe, towards the ſea, is a noble portico of the Doric order. The wings are faced with flint, of curious workmanſhip. Over each of the gateways that lead to them is a large antique baſſo relievo, of white marble; one of which is ſuppoſed to be an ovation of Marcus Aurelius, and the other, though with no great certainty, to relate to the ſtory of Ceres and Proſerpine. The back front conſiſts of ſeveral buildings, which exactly anſwer to each other on the oppoſite ſides of the garden. The whole is connected with ſurpriſing convenience. Here are likewiſe a great number of antique marble columns, ſtatues, buſtos, vaſes, &c. purchaſed in Italy at a very conſiderable expence. The curious ornaments of the ceiling in the great ſaloon were painted by Mr. Hakewell, junior, in Broad-ſtreet, Soho-ſquare. The beautiful columns of Scagliola, in imitation of porphiry, were executed by Meſſrs. Bartoli and Richter, of Great Newport-ſtreet, London, who have ſince raiſed thoſe of the New Pantheon. The gardens are ſmall but neat. At the upper end of the long walk, leading to the convent, is a beautiful column of black Kilkenny marble, raiſed to the memory of the late counteſs of Kildare, and called Counteſs Pillar, with this inſcription,

* Lately created Lord Newborough in Ireland.

This

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This Pillar
Is erected to the Honour of
Margaret of Kildare
Counteſs of Hilſborough
And alas! in memory too
of that moſt amiable Woman
Who died at Naples 1767.

Nor is there greater ſingularity in the houſe, than in the ſeveral buildings erected on the adjacent grounds; which are for the moſt part intended to repreſent ruinated edifices of antiquity. The deſign never fails to excite the wonder and frequently the cenſure of the ſpectators. Though we may venture perhaps to aſſert the latter not ſo well founded as is generally imagined. To decide the point of ſuperior taſte between theſe and the ſtructures which generally adorn the gardens of our nobility, may be no eaſy matter; and lord Holland's were certainly leſs expenſive, and more uſeful than moſt others. The materials are only flint and chalk, both of them on the ſpot, and to be had at no other expence than that of carriage: and the moſt conſiderable buildings, as the Convent, Caſtle, and Bead-houſe, contributed at once to the advantage and entertainment of their proprietor. If you are going from the pariſh church to Kingſgate, you meet firſt with the Convent, deſigned to repreſent the remains of one of thoſe ancient monaſteries formerly ſo numerous in this kingdom. It conſiſts of a noble gateway and porter's lodge, divided into two ſmall and one very handſome apartment. The adjoining cloiſter contains five cells inhabited by ſeveral poor and induſtrious families. An ancient monument appears amidſt the ruins of the chapel, on which reſt two ſtone figures, whom you may imagine to have been two of the old reguli of the kingdom of Kent. The Monument of Hackendown, or Field of Battle-axes is a building in the ſtile of very remote antiquity, intended to commemorate a battle fought on this ſpot between

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between the Danes and Anglo Saxons in the year 853, as has been noticed before. On a tablet is the following inſcription:

D. M.
Danorum et Saxonum hic occiſorurum
Dum de Solo Britannico
(Milites nihil a ſe alienum putant)
Britannis perfide et crudeliter olim expulſis
Inter ſe demicaverunt;
Hen. de Holland
Poſuit.
Qui duces, qualis hujus prælii exitus
Nulla notat hiſtoria
Annum circiter DCCC^m evenit pugna
Et pugnam hanc eveniſſe fidem faciunt
Oſſa quamplurima
Quæ ſub hoc et altero tumulo huic vicino
ſunt ſepulta.

Counteſs Fort contains a round tower, quite in ruins, with a circular outwork in the manner of our ancient fortifications. It was deſigned by the architect for an ice-houſe, but never applied to that purpoſe. The Caſtle is exactly in the ſame ſtyle of building with the caſtles raiſed by Edward I. in Wales, to ſecure the conqueſt of thoſe wild and barren mountains. It ſerves the family for coach-houſes, ſtables, &c. The gate or paſſage to the ſea has the remains of a portcullis, to prevent any ſudden attack by privateers. The top of the Gothic arch ſerves as a line of communication between the north and ſouth of a ſaluting platform of twenty-four pieces of cannon. On the ſide next the ſea is inſcribed in Saxon capitals,

GOD BLESS BARTH'LEM'S GATE.

On that next the land an inſcription intimates, that whereas this gate was formerly called Bartholomew's Gate, it ſhould

now

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now take the name of King's Gate, in honour of Charles II.

Olim porta fui patroni Bartholomæi
Nunc regis juſſu Regia Porta vocor.
Hic excenderunt Car. II. R.
Et Ja. dux Ebor. 30 Jun. 1683.

The Bead-houſe has the appearance of a chapel, dedicated to St. Peter, the patron of fiſhermen, and of the pariſh church. It has always been an houſe of entertainment, where you may be as well accommodated as in moſt houſes upon the coaſt. The Temple of Neptune is a mixture of the ancient Roman and original Gothic architecture. The following inſcriptions are on the pedeſtal which ſupports the ſtatue of the deity to whom it is dedicated.

1.

Inſula rotunda Tanatos quam circuit unda
Fertilis et munda nulli eſt in orbe ſecunda.

2.

Divo Neptuno
Inſulæ Tanatos
Defenſori
Ædium Witfieldenſium
Præcipue tutori
Portæ Regiæ et terrarum
Circumjacentium
Patrono
Hanc Statuam
Prope ædes prædictas compertam
D. D. D. A°. 1768.
H. de Holland
Jam ſenior fractuſque.

3.

Thy Fiſheries yield food, thy Commerce Wealth;
Thy Baths give Vigor, and thy Waters Health.

4. Whit-

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4.

Whitfield was ſafe, while Neptune kept his door,
Neptune retir'd and Whitfield is no more.

Arx Ruohim. The Iſle of Thanet, in the old Britiſh language, was called Innis Ruohim, or Richborough Iſle, from its ſituation near the port of Richborough, hence this tower had its name*. The outwork of flint, which ſurrounds the white tower, reſembles the caſtles erected by Henry VIII. for the protection of the Kentiſh coaſt. Inſcription on a tablet:

Arx Ruochim
Secundum Rev. & admodum ornatum
et eruditum virum Cornelium Willes
Tempore Principis Vortigern
Annum circiter CCCCXLVIII
Ædificata.

Harley Tower, built in the ſtyle of Roman archietecture in honour of Thomas Harley, lord mayor of London, 1768.

On the cordon:

Magiſtratus indicat virum.

On the tablet:

This Tower is dedicated to the Honour of Thomas Harley, Lord Mayor of London in the Year of our Lord 1768.

Juſtum & tenacem propoſiti virum
Non civium ardor prava jubentium
Mente quatit ſolida.

Whitfield Tower, in the full perfection of Gothic architecture, is very elegant; the beauty of its ſhaft was equalled by the ornaments which graced its ſummit, but were blown down

* Sim. Dunelm. Hiſt. col. 120. Others, as Mr. Lewis, Hiſt. of Thanet, p. 2, and Dr. Campbell, Political Survey, vol. i. p. 396, ſuppoſe Innis Ruohim to be the iſle in which Richborough formerly ſtood, and not Thanet, in which it never ſtood at all. Innis Ruohim, the Roman Iſle, Innis Romanorum. Of this we ſhall ſpeak more fully when we treat of the Cinque Ports.

by

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by the wind the firſt winter after it was finiſhed. On the tablet are the following lines:

This Tower built
On the higheſt Spot of this Iſland
Is dedicated
To the Memory of Robert Whitfield, Eſq.
The Ornament and
(Under Thomas Wynn, Eſq.)
The Adorner of Kingſgate.

A Catalogue of the Statues, Buſts, Columns, &c. at Kingſgate.

In the Portico.

Two columns of marble of Breſcia di Saravezza, with vaſes, purple and white variegated.

One of antique Parian marble veined.

One of Pavonazetta marble, grey and white.

Two of deep brown alabaſter of Picorelli.

In the receſſes of the Portico.

Two very ancient Saracophagi.

In the Saloon of Neptune, niches next the windows.

A ſtatue of Sappho, of ſtatuary marble; a moſt elegant figure.

A ſlave bearing a large water veſſel, much admired for the firmneſs of attitude in ſupporting the weight on his ſhoulder.

In the lower niches.

A ſitting figure of Hecuba.

Oppoſite, another female figure ſitting; not known.

In the angles of the Colonade.

A very fine buſt of Trajan; ſtatuary marble.

A very ſcarce and valuable one of Caligula in his youth; ditto.

M. T. Cicero, with a plinth of Gialla Sienna marble.

Two unknown.

A fine head of Seneca expiring.

Another of Æſculapius.

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On the Chimney-piece.

A fine Etruſcan vaſe, ſome beautiful antique Pateras, &c. ſmall baſſo relievos of Homer and Plato in antico roſſo.

On a Table.

An admirable buſt of Democritus, preſented to lord Holland by ſir Charles Bunbury, with the following lines:

My dear lord, as a proof of my love and regard,
Accept of the buſto which comes with this card;
And may the old Grecian's ridiculous phiz
Inſpire you with notions as chearful as his;
Perſuade you with patience your griefs to endure,
And laugh at thoſe evils no weeping can cure.

Oppoſite, a buſt of ſir T. Wynn, now lord Newborough, in white marble.

In the Veſtibule of the Saloon.

Centre nich, a very large Grecian urn, finely ornamented; the ſtory in baſſo relievo is the ſuove taurilia, or ſacrifice of the ſwine, ſheep, and bull.

A Satyr, and a Cleopatra.

In the receſs of the Veſtibule of the houſe oppoſite the ſtair-caſe.

An antique ſmall pillar, capital, and baſe, with a buſt of Æſculapius in white marble.

In the Drawing Room, or French Room.

Two large beautiful tables of roſſo granito.

Two fine vaſes of white alabaſter.

In the circular Room.

Four large ſtatues on large and curious urns, which ſerve as pedeſtals. 1. Flora. 2. Hygeia. 3. Diana venatrix. 4. Venus.

A beautiful Corinthian capital in white marble, dug out of the ruins of old Rome.

A Sacrifice.

A marine pillar of white marble.

A Roman Eagle of black Namur marble.

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In the Paſſage Room.

A ſmall head of Plato in Giallo antico.

A ſmall column of Giallo antico.

Two ditto of Pietra ſanta.

A baſſo relievo of ſtatuary marble, ſuppoſed to be a ſepulchral piece of Marcus Aurelius and the younger Fauſtina.

The head of a boy in ſtatuary marble.

Caſts in terra colta:—Of Antonius; the dying Gladiator; the Wreſtlers; Perſeus and Andromeda; Venus attended by Cupid on a dolphin; the reverſe of the ſame figure; a Centaur with a Cupid on his back.

Two white marble pedeſtals for vaſes.

Two Satyr's heads.

A pair of green Oriental granite vaſes, fluted, exceedingly large and beautiful, with plith of Giallo antico, modern.

A pair of ditto of alabaſter of Volterra, near Florence, fluted and very fine; modern.

A pair ditto of grey marble with white veins, antique and perfect.

In the Library.

Two lava tables, finely poliſhed.

On the Chimney-piece.

A ſmall Hymen in white marble.

A Meduſa of the ſame ſize.

Caſts in bronze of three capital ſtatues; Hercules killing the Centaur, the lions killing the ox, the lion killing the horſe.

Some trifles dug out of the ruins of Herculaneum.

In Charles Tower.

A granite pillar.

An antique urn with an inſcription.

Two termini, one Æſculapius, the other a Faun; the heads of roſſo antico, and the pedeſtals of lava.

A fine Sarcophagus.

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Many cinerrary urns of different ſizes, and ſome of them of exquiſite workmanſhip.

Fragment of an altar dedicated to Diana.

Ditto of a pillar.

Ditto of a piece of lava, part of the paving of the ſtreets of Pompeia.

Ditto of a ſquare ſtone with an inſcription.

In the Repoſitory.

Two ſmall columns of black Egyptian marble.

Two large columns of grey Berdilio marble.

Two large columns of verd antique, and other fragments of the ſame marble; very valuable.

Two ſmall fluted columns of antique white marble.

An ancient door-way of roſſo antico.

A profile of Auguſtus in white marble.

The Deæ Matres, three female figures without heads, the drapery very fine.

A cinerary urn.

Fragment of an antique cornice of white marble.

Ditto of a Bacchus.

Ditto not known.

The head of an ox in white marble.

Without doors, over the Gateways.

Two beautiful baſſo relievos of white ſtatuary marble; the one ſuppoſed to repreſent an ovation of Marcus Aurelius, the other to relate to the ſtory of Ceres and Proſerpine.

A broken pillar, with the baſe of Saravezza marble.

Some ſtones from the Giants Cauſway in the county of Antrim in Ireland.

About fifty tons of the pietra di Veſuvio, or lava from Naples, of a bluiſh grey colour, and exquiſitely hard.

Tranſlation of the Inſcription at Hackendown.

Henry lord Holland erected this monument to the memory of the Danes and Saxons who were killed here, while they were

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were fighting with each other for Britain (Soldiers think they have a right to do what they pleaſe) the natives having before been perfidiouſly and cruelly driven out. No hiſtory informs us who were the commanders in this action, or what was the event of it. It happened about the year 850, and that it happened on this ſpot, is credible from the many bones, which are buried in this and the adjacent tumulus.

On the Gate.

I, once by patron Bartlmew was claim'd,
Now, by a king's command, am Kingſgate nam'd,
Here landed king Charles the 2d.
And James duke of York, 30 June 1683.

On the Temple of Neptune.

Thanet, round iſle, by water compaſs'd reckon'd,
Fertile and clean, to none on earth the ſecond.

To the god Neptune, protector of the Iſle of Thanet; particularly the defender of the houſe of Whitfield, patron of Kingſgate and its environs, this ſtatue, which was found near the aforeſaid houſe, was dedicated in the year 1768, by Henry lord Holland, then old and infirm.

On Harley Tower.

The man in conſcious virtue bold,
Who dares his ſecret purpoſe hold
Unſhaken hears the croud's tumultuous noiſe.

On Arx Rhuobim.

Arx Ruohim, according to the opinion of the Rev. and very accompliſhed and learned Cornelius Willes, built in the time of prince Vortigern, about the year 448.

Still keeping along the coaſt, at the diſtance of about half a mile is the North Foreland, the extreme point eaſt of England. This cape projects far into the ſea, in form of a baſtion; on which is a light-houſe, a ſtrong octagon of flint, erected in 1683. A large fire of coals is kept blazing all night

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night on the top of it, to be a guide for ſhips ſailing near the coaſt. Every Britiſh ſhip going round the foreland, pays two-pence, and every foreign one four-pence, on each ton, for the ſupport of this light. It is under the direction of the elder brethren of the Trinity-houſe. The old building of lath and plaiſter having been burnt down, a kind of beacon was uſed till the preſent building was raiſed. It is inhabited by two men, who watch by turns. At Stone, a ſmall diſtance from hence, a pleaſant country ſeat was built in 1770, by ſir Charles Raymond, bart. as a place of ſummer reſidence. Near this place one of thoſe beacons formerly ſtood, which were fired to give an alarm to the country in caſe of invaſion. The beacon was a tall piece of timber, at whoſe top, through a pulley, was an iron chain, to draw up a barrel of lighted pitch on that occaſion. A few years ſince ſome of this timber was dug up on the top of the Beacon-hill, about 55 rods nearer to Stone than the preſent light-houſe. In 1501, frequent mention is made of lands lying near or about the beacon, *juxta le beken, apud le beken, viam ducent. ad le beken.*

Hence we deſcend to Broadſtairs, or more properly Bradſtow, a conſiderable hamlet in the pariſh of St. Peter, which has increaſed greatly within the laſt century, at the expence of other parts of it. In the year 1656, only eighteen, in 1759, ſixty houſes were aſſeſſed to the poor's rate. This has been probably occaſioned by the number of veſſels fitted out for the North Sea, and Iceland cod-fiſhery. In the laſt mentioned year it ſent thirteen ſloops to Iceland on that account; and in a ſucceſsful year it is a very profitable trade. The cod bringing, on an average, at home markets about 2l. 10s. an hundred, by tale; a conſiderable trade is carried on of the oil made of their livers. This trade has of late years much declined. The pier, being old and ruinous, was totally deſtroyed by a violent ſtorm, Jan. 2, 1767; but the harbour having

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having been found to be of great uſe, it was rebuilt by voluntary ſubſcription in 1772. The droits or duties are confirmed by ancient uſage, and many decrees of the Lords Wardens of the Cinque Ports. Here are ſtill the remains of an old gateway, built of flint, and fortified with a portcullis, to prevent the inroads of privateers; as alſo of a popiſh chapel, ſaid to be once held in great veneration. On the 2d of Feb. 1762, a large male whale of the ſpermaceti kind was driven on ſhore here; whoſe dimenſions, taken upon the ſpot, were as follow:

	Feet.	*Inches.*
Length	61	0
Circumference	45	0
Perpendicular height, as it lay on its ſide,	12	0
Diſtance of the fins, meaſured acroſs the belly,	8	6
From the noſe to the eye	1	3
From the noſe to the fin	1	6½
From the noſe to the ſpout	1	0
Length of the fin	4	6
Breadth of the fin	3	0
From the tail to the navel	15	0
Length of the penis	6	0
Lower jaw	8	0

The throat was ſo narrow as ſcarcely to admit of a man's arm. The lower jaw contained in two rows 48 teeth, from eighteen ounces downwards to not more than two or three. There were holes in the upper jaw correſpondent to the teeth in the lower, but no large teeth. In both jaws were ſome ſmall teeth, about the ſize of the ſtem of a tobacco pipe, white as ivory, and the larger teeth when wrought were not diſtinguiſhable from it. The next day, Feb. the 3d, another whale of the ſame kind, and nearly of the ſame ſize, was thrown aſhore at the ſame place. No leſs than thirteen male whales were driven out of their element by the ſtormy weather

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weather which prevailed at this time, or from ſome other hidden cauſe, of which we can give no account; viz. two at Broadſtairs, one at Birchington, two on the coaſt of Eſſex, one on a ſhoal below the Hope Point in the river Thames, one on the coaſt of France, and ſix on the Dutch and Flemiſh coaſts.

Oppoſite to this place, at the diſtance of ſomewhat more than two leagues from the ſhore, are the Goodwin Sands, which extend in length, from north to ſouth, about ten miles, and in breadth almoſt two, and are viſible at low water. Though theſe ſands form a bank, which, in conjunction with the North and South Forelands, renders the Downs a tolerably ſafe harbour, yet in general they are very deſtructive to navigation; ſhips ſtriking on them ſeldom eſcape, being uſually quite ſwallowed up in a few tides, and ſometimes in a very few hours. In the great ſtorm, Nov. 27, 1703, the Stirling-Caſtle, Reſtauration, Northumberland, and Mary, on board which was vice-admiral Beaumont, were loſt upon theſe ſands, when upwards of 1100 ſeamen periſhed. As ſhipwrecks frequently happen, they become a good revenue to the fiſhermen and peaſants who live along the coaſt, and who ſeldom fail to improve them to the utmoſt advantage. This, however, muſt be owned in juſtice to them, that whenever there is a bare poſſibility of preſerving a ſhipwrecked crew, they act in contempt of danger, and do really often ſave the lives of others, at the moſt imminent hazard of their own. We cannot ſpeak with any certainty concerning the origin of theſe dangerous ſhoals; it has been conjectured, by thoſe writers who ought to have known better, that they were inhabited iſlands within theſe 1200 years, and part of earl Goodwin's eſtate, but were ſwallowed up by an earthquake, or overflowed by an inundation: but if either of theſe cataſtrophes had happened, in the period abovementioned, they would certainly have been deſcribed

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deſcribed in leſs ambiguous terms. Neither is there any mention of ſuch an iſland in Doomſday-book, where thoſe of Thanet, Sheppy, Graine, &c. are minutely deſcribed; or in the annals of St. Auguſtine and Chriſt-Church, Canterbury, which, without doubt, would have enjoyed ſome part of them, if they had been more than imaginary, and as fertile as repreſented; nor is mention made of it in any ancient terrier or repertory, which deſerves the leaſt degree of credit. The truth, in all probability, is, that in the beginning of the reign of Henry I. about the year 1100, a terrible inundation happened, which drowned a large track of land in Flanders and the Low Countries. The waters being thus drawn off, and diverted into another channel, the perpendicular depth in the adjoining ſea muſt of courſe be leſſened, ſo that theſe ſands, which might be ſafely paſſed over before, by ſhips of ſuch burden as were then in uſe, were afterwards little more than covered, even at high water. What ſeems to confirm this opinion is, that from the ſame cauſe the river Wantſum, which was a navigable river, ſurrounding the iſland, is become, as before obſerved, only an inſignificant ſtream, and the harbour of Sandwich, formerly of great note, has been ſo choaked up with ſand, as to be of much leſs uſe at preſent than it was heretofore. It is generally ſuppoſed, that the Goodwin Sands are more ſoft and porous than thoſe along the neighbouring coaſt, in conſequence of which ſo many ſhips are almoſt inſtantaneouſly loſt; but this is a miſtake, for they are as hard and tenacious as any other. Veſſels, indeed, are ſoon ſwallowed up at high water, if they hold together, by reaſon of their violent agitation. All heavy bodies reſting on ſand, when put in motion, will work gradually downwards, and their deſcent will be in proportion to their degree of motion.

One mile to the right of Bradſtow is the pleaſant village of St. Peter, which has a neat and beautiful church; the tower

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of which is a well known ſea-mark, and the proſpect from the top is as delightful and extenſive, both by ſea and land, as the imagination can form. The aſcent to it is ſafe and eaſy, by ſtone ſteps. In matters of juriſdiction, St. Peter's is ſubject to the town and port of Dover, to which it was annexed by letters patent of Henry VIII. This village has thirty-five hamlets or knots of houſes in it, all which bear different names. There are two fairs each year in this pariſh, one on June the 10th (St. Peter,) and the other on April 5 (Old Lady Day). Theſe may originally have been wakes, one on account of St. Peter to whom the church, and the other on account of the B. Virgin to whom the north chancel, was dedicated. Going on, with a full view of the cliffs of Calais to the left, we paſs through the ville of Dumpton to

Ramſgate, which is ſituated in a cove of the chalky cliff. It was anciently an obſcure village, built for the conveniency of the fiſhery; but of late years has been much improved and enlarged, owing to a ſucceſsful trade, which its inhabitants have carried on, ſince the year 1688, to Ruſſia and the Eaſt Country. The town is built in the form of a croſs, and has in it many elegant and commodious houſes, in ſome of which ſeveral very genteel families conſtantly reſide. It has alſo ſome good inns, and ſpacious ſhops. Since ſea-bathing has become ſo faſhionable an amuſement, the pleaſant and healthy ſituation of Ramſgate has induced many of the nobility and gentry to reſort thither in the ſeaſon; in conſequence of which, an elegant aſſembly-room, coffee-room, billiard-room, and a complete ſet of lodging-rooms, have been lately erected near the Pier; from which is a moſt delightful proſpect of the Downs, the French coaſt, the South Foreland cliffs, Deal, Sandwich, and Eaſt Kent, and ſome of the higheſt towers of Dover caſtle may be diſcovered with a good glaſs. Here are alſo machines, with proper guides, and every accommodation for bathing. The bath-

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ing place is under the cliffs on the eaſt ſide of the harbour; the bottom is of chalk, covered with ſand, and is continually improving from the ſand daily thrown out of the harbour into the ſea, which being driven upon the ſhore by the tide, makes an excellent bottom for bathing A hoy ſails from hence for London and returns every fortnight. The poſt comes in from London and returns daily. A machine and ſeveral carriers ſet out every day for Canterbury, during the ſeaſon, and return the ſame evening. Henry VIII. by letters patent, united this town to Sandwich, within whoſe juriſdiction it ſtill continues, and its inhabitants pay a portion of the land-tax levied on the town to which it is ſubject, the mayor of which appoints a deputy, who reſides here. The pariſh church is at St. Laurence, about half a mile from Ramſgate; it ſtands upon a hill, is a handſome and ſpacious building, with a lofty ſquare tower. Formerly it was a chapel to Minſter, but in 1275, the archbiſhop of Canterbury conſecrated the church-yard, and made the church parochial. The new harbour, which cannot fail to attract the notice of all ſtrangers, being the fineſt and moſt capacious in England, or perhaps in Europe, was begun in the year 1750; but on account of many interruptions, is not yet quite finiſhed. It conſiſts of two piers; the eaſtern one is built entirely of white Purbec ſtone, and extends itſelf into the ocean near 800 feet, before it forms an angle. Its breadth at top is 26 feet, including a ſtrong parapet wall, which runs along the outſide of it. The weſtern pier is conſtructed of wood, as far as low water mark, but the remainder of ſtone, like the other. The angles, of which there are five in each pier, are of 160 feet each, with octagons at the ends of 60 feet, leaving an entrance of 200 feet into the harbour. The depth admits of a gradual increaſe, from 18 to 36 feet. This harbour is intended as a place of refuge for ſhips in hard gales of wind from ſouth-eaſt to eaſt-north-eaſt, when they are expoſed to the moſt

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danger in the Downs. From the length of time this work has been in hand, the harbour is much choaked with ſand and mud, but as the heads are now finiſhed, leſs of it will be thrown in; ſo that there are hopes of its being cleared, which, when once effected, may be kept ſo. Might not the convicts be employed in this neceſſary work with great utility to the public, agreeable to a late act of parliament? The ſum of 300,000l. ſaid to have been already expended in this undertaking, would be triffling, when compared with the benefits which navigation might receive by this harbour being cleanſed and made capable of admitting ſhips of burden. That ſome powerful exertions are abſolutely neceſſary is evident; for as there is no back water, and the force of the ebb being inſufficient to ſcour the channel, and prevent the accumulation of ſand and mud, in a few years a bar will probably be formed, ſo as to render the whole uſeleſs.

From Ramſgate we paſs through St. Laurence, about two miles, to Cliff-end; from whence, turning ſouthward, and proceeding towards Sandwich, ſoon arrive at Wippedsfleet, now Ebbsfleet, a celebrated place of antiquity. It is a ſmall creek or bay, about three miles from Sandwich, and little more than a mile from Richborough caſtle. There ſeems formerly to have been a commodious haven at this place, as we find it famous for the landing of the Saxons under Hengiſt, and the miſſionaries who attended Auguſtine. Advancing ſtill towards Sandwich, we paſs two or three houſes, which are the only remains of the ancient town of Stonar. This place, according to archbiſhop Uſher, and ſome other hiſtorians, was the *Lapis Tituli* of the Romans; and tradition ſays, that Vortimer, king of the Britons, having vanquiſhed the Saxons in many battles, and driven them out of the iſland, ordered his corpſe to be interred here, thinking that his monument would terrify the enemy from landing any more on this coaſt; but the Britons found, by ſad experience, the difference

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difference between a king in the field and in the grave. But Somner, Stillingfleet, Gale, and Stukeley, place it at Folkſtone, and Battely at Stone-end, between Dungeneſs and Romney. Be this as it may; the town of Stonar was ſituated oppoſite to Sandwich, and probably reached to the ſhore of the Wantſum on that ſide. The church ſtood on a ſmall eminence about half a mile from the river, to the eaſt of the great road. The town ſeems to have been populous in the time of William II. a court being held there by the juſtices: at this court it was agreed between the men of Lundenwic, (Sandwich) and the men of Stonar, that the abbot's privileges ſhould extend from the ſhore to the middle of the water, or Wantſum. This charter was confirmed by Henry I. and king Stephen. Various were the diſputes between the abbot of St. Auguſtine and the men of Stonar, becauſe the latter would not ſubmit to the authority of the former, do ſervice in his court, or acknowledge that their tenements belonged to the barony of St. Auguſtine. In 1368, the mayor of Sandwich, and certain men of the town of Stonar, were ſued for a treſpaſs, by Robert de Stoke, ſheriff of Kent. But they refuſed to anſwer in his court, alledging, that as they enjoyed in common the privileges of the Cinque Ports, they would only plead in the court of Shipway: on which refuſal, they were committed to priſon; and it was adjudged that the town of Stonar belonged to the abbot. They were releaſed on paying him a fine. Notwithſtanding this defeat, it appears that the Stonar men accompliſhed their deſign ſoon afterwards, and were made members of the Cinque Port of Sandwich. Indeed ſeveral authors aſſert, that Stonar belonged to this port from the time of Edward the Confeſſor; but this cannot be reconciled with the foregoing legal proceſs. It ſeems evident, however, long before the year 1368, the mayor of Sandwich exerciſed certain juridical powers in this town; and alſo the office of judge of the crown, commonly called coroner. It was uſual with the mayor of Sandwich,

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wich, ſoon after he was elected, to cauſe the common town horn to be blown at certain places in the town of Stonar, and ſummon the inhabitants to aſſemble at a time and place appointed; at which aſſembly the mayor choſe a fit perſon to act as his deputy in that town, who was in all caſes to perform the office of mayoralty, except in giving judgment, which was to be done by the mayor himſelf, within the liberties of the town of Stonar. In the year 1385 the town received a fatal blow, from which it never recovered. It was firſt plundered and afterwards burnt by the French. Such was the effect of this conflagration, that when it was viſited by archbiſhop Parker, in 1569, there were neither houſes nor communicants. Mr. Lewis ſays, that in the archbiſhop's acts of viſitation for that year, there is this entry:

"Stonard rectoria ex patronatu Henrici Criſpe militis,
"Rectoria vacat per mortem ultimi rectoris ibidem,
"Sunt indicta parochia domicila, } Nulli."
"Communicantes }

This may be called an epitaph on the departed town; to which may be added what Dr. Plot has left in manuſcript about the year 1693, which is quoted by Mr. Harris. "The "ruins of the town of Stonar did remain till within the me- "mory of man, and took up many acres of ground, but "were lately removed to render the ground fit for tillage; "and ſo much of them as could not be put to another uſe, "compoſed that bank which remains between the two houſes, "whereof that houſe next the creek borders upon the old "town; the other, which is more remote, being of a later "erection, but both called Stonar." At this time Stonar is in the juriſdiction of the county at large, and not in that of any of the Cinque Ports. In the laſt century it was the eſtate of the Criſpes, an ancient family at Birchington; one of which conveyed it to ſir George Rooke, admiral of Great Britain

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Britain in 1699. His eldeſt ſon married the eldeſt ſiſter of the right hon. lord viſcount Dudley and Ward, and at his death gave it, among others, by will, to his widow. She is ſucceeded in poſſeſſion by her nephew, the preſent lord viſcount Dudley and Ward. Among other improvements ſome ſalt-works have been erected here, which are curious, and worthy of obſervation. The ſea-brine is drawn, during the hotteſt of the ſummer months, into open, broad, ſhallow pans, of a great extent; where, having continued till the more watery particles have been exhaled by the ſun, it is conveyed into large boilers, and made in the uſual method. The ſalt having thus undergone a double proceſs, both by the ſun, and by common fire, is found to partake ſo far of the qualities of bay-ſalt, as to anſwer all its purpoſes. It is perfectly white and clear, and ſuppoſed, from a variety of experiments, to be at leaſt equal in ſtrength to any made in the kingdom. Near this place a cut, or canal, is intended to be made, from the Stour into the Haven, for draining the ſuperfluous waters off the lands above, which are conſtantly overflowed in the winter ſeaſon. An act of parliament was obtained for this purpoſe in May 1776.

About a mile to the right of Stonar is Richborough, the Rutupium, or Urba Rutupina of the Romans. It was their firſt and moſt conſiderable ſtation in this kingdom, being the chief port from whence they carried on their trade and connections with the Continent. All this part of the coaſt, oppoſite to Dunkirk, Calais, and Boulogne, was called the Rutupian ſhore, from the name of the chief ſettlement. The Romans uſually landed their forces here; and many of their coins (particularly thoſe of the lower empire) have been found near to the place. It is ſaid to have remained in a reſpectable ſtate above a thouſand years, quite down to the Anglo-Saxons, when both the town, and the caſtle, which had been built

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built for its defence by Veſpaſian, were finally ruined by the ravages of the Danes, about the year 1010. There are not the leaſt traces of this once famous city to be found; even the ruins of it are no more, and the ground, whereon it ſtood, is become an open corn-field. But the remains of the caſtle are ſtill to be ſeen, and do exceedingly well deſerve notice; they are of conſiderable extent *. The walls, whoſe original height cannot be aſcertained, becauſe no where perfect, are in ſome places near twelve feet in thickneſs, compoſed chiefly of flints and Roman bricks; the latter are ſixteen inches long, eleven broad, and one and a half thick, and of an incredible hardneſs; they are laid at ſmall intervals, and the vacuities between filled with round beach-ſtones. It had two gates, the one to the weſt, and the other to the north. The whole eaſtern ſide of the caſtle is ſunk down and deſtroyed by the fall of the cliff, the remainder is ruinous and overgrown with ivy, and ſtands only as a melancholy monument of its former greatneſs. Upon an eminence, near the caſtle, is the carcaſe of the caſtrenſian amphitheatre †, made of turf, ſuppoſed for the exerciſe and diverſion of the garriſon; the ſoil is of gravel and ſand, and has been long ploughed over. Such is the preſent appearance of Richborough; but as the curious will not probably be ſatisfied with this ſhort account of theſe venerable remains, we would refer them to the very ingenious little tract of Dr. Battely, entitled *Antiquitates Rutupinæ*; a tranſlation of which, with ſome illuſtrative notes ‡, was publiſhed in 1774.

One mile from Stonar we croſs the river Stour, by the new bridge, and enter Sandwich, where commences our ſeventh ſtage.

* A view of this caſtle is given by Dr. Stukeley, in plate 97 of his Itin. Curioſ. vol. i. and a S. W. view of it from Sandwich, in plates 35, vol. ii. 1722. There is alſo a N. W. view of it by Buck, 1735.

† A plate of this amhpitheatre is alſo given by Dr. Stukeley, in his Itin. Curioſ. vol. ii. p. 125.

‡ By the Rev. J. Duncombe, M. A. one of the ſix preachers in Chriſt-Church, Canterbury.

STAGE

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STAGE VII.

Ancient and preſent ſtate of Sandwich; conjectures on the decay of the Cinque Ports.—Woodneſborough.—Eaſtry.—Northbourn.—Walderſhare.—Weſt Langdon Abbey.—Deal.—South Foreland.—St. Margaret's Bay.—DOVER.

SANDWICH is near a mile and a half from the ſea, eight miles from Margate, twelve from Canterbury, ten from Dover, and five from Deal. The walls of the town, which were made by throwing up the earth, are nearly in the form of a parallelogram, and are about five furlongs in length from eaſt to weſt, and two and an half from north to ſouth; at the foot of which is a wet ditch of conſiderable breadth. They command a pleaſant and extenſive view of the adjacent country. In theſe walls are ſeveral ſemicircular projections which overlook the ditches, there were alſo ſome pieces of ordnance, which being quite unſerviceable, have been lately removed. The river and quays are on the north ſide of the town, there are ſeveral gates belonging to it, ſome of which are in a ruinous condition. On the eaſt ſide is Sandown gate, through which is the road to Deal; on the ſouth ſide is Newgate, which leads to Dover; and Woodneſborough gate in the road to that once famous village: on the weſt ſide is Canterbury gate, through which lies the road to that city; on the north ſide is Davis or David's gate, at one end of which is a watch tower, called the Barbican, and at the other the cuſtom houſe. It is directly oppoſite the new bridge, over which is the avenue into the iſle of Thanet: a little below this is Fiſher's gate, which faces that part of the river where was formerly a ferry, which before the erection of the

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bridge, was the only paſſage into the iſland. There was likewiſe a gate called Gregory Ive's gate, at the bottom of Love lane, Pillory gate, adjoining to the Dolphin-Key, and Hunter's-gate, but theſe are demoliſhed. On the north eaſt angle of the walls was an ancient tower called the Bulwark. It was about twenty feet high, thirty feet long, and twenty feet broad, embattled on the top. It commanded the harbour, and was formerly uſed as a look-out-houſe, but being much decayed was a few years ſince taken down. It appears, from the remains of fortifications about this town, that it was anciently a place of great ſtrength, and before the uſe of cannon, was capable of enduring a vigorous ſiege. Sandwich has been eſteemed the moſt famous of all the ports in England; and is thought, by many reſpectable authors, to have been the landing place generally uſed by the Romans, and inhabitants of the ancient city Rhutupiæ. But it is probable that both Sandwich and Richborough were underſtood by that appellation; Sandwich having been the port for landing and embarking, and Richborough the garriſon for the troops. Near the mills at Aſh is a Roman burying ground; from which it ſeems reaſonable to conclude, that the Roman road from Canterbury ran by this place, and proceeded from thence by Brook-ſtreet to Richborough caſtle.

* Sandwich, in the opinion of ſome, and thoſe too of our greateſt antiquaries; is thought to be the Portus Rhutupinus (called Portus Ritupis in the Itinerary) of the ancient Romans, and in their times the moſt celebrated port in Britain. But, though in effect the thing is really ſo, yet one may, with more propriety, ſay, that Sandwich is all that is now left of the Roman port, than that it is the port. The farther this matter has been enquired into, the ſtricter the care with

* We are obliged to the very ingenious Dr. Campbell for the following account of Sandwich and the Cinque Ports, given in his valuable work of the Political Survey of Great Britain.

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which it has been examined, and the closer it has been sifted, by the ablest critics, the plainer truth has gradually appeared. It grew evident, upon their first researches, that, in ancient times, when there were far better opportunities of coming at certainty, Richborough, or rather Ratesborough, or, as Beda calls it, Reptaceastre, and not Sandwich, was taken for Rhutupium. The very learned, sagacious, and indefatigable Somner, thought to settle this point, by separating the Roman fortress from the city; he allows that Richborough was the former, but maintains, that we are to look for the latter at Sandwich. Other able and diligent antiquaries, perceived that Richborough, though it is now, had not been always on the Kentish side of the Wantsume, and thence concluded, that it must have been once in the island of Thanet. On a yet deeper disquisition, it was conceived, from the ancient descriptions, there were certainly two places of this name; and, therefore, the ingenious and judicious Mr. Horsley chuses rather to call them Ritupiæ, or Rhutupiæ, than Rhutupium, in which he is justified by Ptolemy. All these enquiries tended finally to shew, that this was, when the Romans possessed the country, and long after, a port of very great extent; and which must, consequently, have been very different from what Sandwich now is, or indeed, ever was, since that very little part of the port, which is still left, received its denomination from that place. Upon comparing, therefore, all these passages together, and attending to the discoveries of a very diligent observer of the face of the country, to whose care we owe a philosophic chart of this part of Kent,* we see pretty clearly how things must have stood in those remote times, and, of course, the condition of this port, which, as I formerly promised, I will now, though not without some apprehension of censure, do my best to explain.

* Dr. Packe's philosophical description of East Kent, p. 44.

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"Thanet, which is ſcarce at this day a peninſula, was formerly a complete iſland, and nearly, as I take it, of a circular figure. In the time of the Romans, the ſea on the ſouth-weſt ſide of the iſland, between that and the main land of Kent, was at leaſt four miles broad, and gradually decreaſing as it paſſed along the ſouth ſide of the iſland, became at length leſs than two miles, and at Sarr, which was the narroweſt part, might be about a mile and an half.—Thus far flowed the ſouth, which there met the north ſea; that entered at what was from thence ſtiled Northuma, that is North Mouth, where remains of every kind, bricks, domeſtic utenſils, coins, &c. plainly ſhew there was a Roman ſtation, not at all inferior in ſplendour to the other at Rutupium; and to cover this city, as well as to defend the entrance of the ſafeſt and moſt important port then in the iſland, they conſtructed on a riſing ground a ſtrong and noble fortreſs, which was called Regulbium, by the Saxons Raculfceſter, now Reculver. At the oppoſite entrance, on the ſouth-weſt ſide of Thanet, in a ſmall iſland, which theſe buildings almoſt entirely occupied, ſtood the city and fortreſs of Ritupium, which is now, with ſome indelible characters of ancient ſtrength and luſtre, ſtiled Richborough.—This, as it gives a ſatisfactory view of a deep, ſecure, and extenſive harbour, ſhews why thoſe ſtations and fortreſſes were erected at each extremity, accounts for their being named Ritupiæ, and affords us a juſt idea of the wiſe policy and admirable contrivance of the Romans, to render this province of Cantium rich and well peopled, by making this commodious haven and its emporia the centre of commerce between Britain and the countries round it.

"It would be no difficult taſk, if both the external and internal characters of veracity were leſs apparent, to maintain all that has been advanced from the moſt authentick writers. We

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We have the teſtimony of an unexceptionable author, that through this port lay the direct and accuſtomed paſſage to London by ſea, beyond the middle of the fourth century.—It remained in its natural and perfect ſtate, ſo long as the Romans enjoyed Britain, and no doubt for ſome time after. But in Beda's time, and perhaps an age before that, the port began to decline by diminiſhing its breadth: For he tells us that it was then but three furlongs wide, fordable in two places, and was called Wantſume, or the deficient water. It continued however a paſſable ſtreight, for ſhips of ſome burthen, till about the Norman conqueſt; a little after which what had been already begun was proſecuted with diligence. For, as we are told, when it was once perceived that the tides no longer flowed with any conſiderable vigour, ſo that this element, which is naturally irreſiſtible, ſeemed leſs able to keep what it yet retained of its ancient poſſeſſions, the inhabitants on both ſides began to dyke out the ſea, ſo that gradually they brought on thoſe great changes which now appear. The ſtream that originally ran into the arm of the north ſea, which divided Thanet from the Continent, runs now, which ſhews in ſome meaſure the breadth of the old channel, a mile and a half eaſt of Reculver, while the Stour makes its way into the South Sea at Sandwich.—The diſtance between theſe two ſtreams is ſomething better than a mile; which iſthmus however is cut by an artificial current of water, called the mile-ſtream, over which there is a bridge in the road to Sarr; ſo that the iſle of Thanet, which was formerly ſeparated from the Continent, by the entire channel of the old Portus Rhutupinus, or Ritupenſis, and was then, as in its natural ſtate, all high land, is now a peninſula, or at beſt a river iſle only, with the Stour-Wantſume on the ſouth, the mile-ſtream on the ſouth-weſt, and the Nethergong-Wantſume on the weſt. The reſt of the iſland looks to the Eaſt and North Seas as heretofore; but the

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the figure (for which the reaſon will be hereafter given) is altered from a circular to an irregular oval; which circumſtance, as we ſhall likewiſe ſhew, is a very ſtrong confirmation of the reality of that opinion which is here advanced.

"It is very poſſible that an inquiſitive and judicious reader may expect ſomething more diſtinct and particular, as to the preciſe time when, and the manner in which this famous port was thus ruined and loſt: but in tracing theſe points I cannot pretend to the ſame certainty as with regard to the general facts already mentioned, which I think too well ſupported to admit of any controverſy. However, I will ſpeak my private ſentiment, and leave it either to be confirmed or refuted by ſome abler pen. It ſeems then very probable to me, that the firſt encroachments were made by the monks or other eccleſiaſtics, to whom, as I take it, both the Ritupiæ were given by the Kings of Kent; and they having, at leaſt in thoſe days, no notion of trade, but being great improvers of land, thought every addition of this nature a mighty acquiſition. The Saxons had probably deſtroyed the Roman fortreſs, though not the city of Ritupium, during their wars with the Britons; and I apprehend the firſt ſtep taken of this kind, was annexing the iſland upon which it ſtood to the Continent of Kent. This was actually accompliſhed before Beda's time, for he does not ſeem ſo much as to have heard that it ever was an iſland. I will here take the liberty of mentioning a ſuſpicion of my own; which is this, that even our ableſt antiquaries are miſtaken in ſuppoſing that the ancient Britons gave the name of Innis Ruym to the iſland of Thanet, and this for the very reaſon they aſſign in ſupport of their opinion, that it referred to the Roman port of Rutupium; whereas it ſeems much more likely, that this appellation belonged to the little iſland on which that city ſtood, and not to the iſland of Thanet, upon which it never ſtood at all.

"After

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" After the junction of the iſle to Kent, the ſea no longer flowing with the ſame freedom, began to throw up immenſe quantities of beach on the oppoſite ſide, which produced Stonar, more properly Eſtanore, that is, the Eaſt Stone Shore, originally an iſle by itſelf, but quickly united by the monks, who made a cauſeway for that purpoſe to the iſle of Thanet. Here there was a very conſpicuous town, though now there is only a farm houſe, and a kind of port, about which, in later times, there were great diſputes between the inhabitants of Sandwich and the abbots of St. Auſtin in Canterbury, the former claiming it as dependent upon their port, and the latter as belonging to them in virtue of royal grants. This warm conteſt is commonly ſaid to have been between the citizens of London and the abbots of St. Auſtin, but that ariſes from the denomination that Sandwich once had of Londonwic; becauſe while the Rutupian road remained in a tolerable degree free and open, it was the conſtant ſtation, as the Downs now is, of the ſhipping belonging to the port of London, then, as at preſent, the greateſt trading city in this iſland.

" After all, Sandwich, though at the diſtance of a long ſeries of years, came in the place of Rutupium; that is, when the Roman city was deſtroyed, and the port of Ebbesfleet, properly Wippedsfleet, on the ſide of Thanet began to fill up, a new town was neceſſarily built on the Continent, and the correſpondence which had ſo long ſubſiſted between the old port and the oppoſite coaſt was gradually transferred thither. But that Sandwich, though it came thus in the place, could never be the Roman Rutupium, will appear from a few ſhort remarks. It does not anſwer the deſcription given of that place by ancient hiſtorians. It ſtands low, in an unhealthy ſituation, which no Roman city ever did. There have been no coins, or rather relics of antiquity, found in or near it. Laſtly, the name is plainly Saxon, and ſhews that

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that the coaſt was expoſed to drifts of ſand when this place was built. It is impoſſible to fix the date of its foundation; but about the middle of the ninth century, Athelſtan king of Kent, beat a Daniſh fleet here; and from that period to the Norman Conqueſt it was reputed the beſt port in England; for till then, and a conſiderable time after, the paſſage, though much diminiſhed in breadth, was open; ſince we find that Earl Goodwin, after ravaging the coaſt of Suſſex, ſailed behind the iſle of Thanet and came up the Thames.

"King Knute, or Canutus, gave this town and port by a very memorable charter to the monaſtery of Chriſt-church in Canterbury. In the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, as we find in Domeſday-book, there were in this borough three hundred and ſeven houſes. In King John's time it was burned by Lewis of France. Edward the Firſt, to reſtore the place, removed the ſtaple thither, and acquired the beſt part of it from the monks. His grandſon, Edward the Third, completed the Exchange, and recovered this town from them entirely, for the manor of Borly in Eſſex. The wars with France in that and in the ſucceeding reigns, particularly thoſe of Henry the Fifth, contributed very much to the benefit of the place, and to enriching its inhabitants. In the reign of Henry the Sixth it had a very flouriſhing trade, ſo that the cuſtoms amounted to between fifteen and twenty thouſand pounds per annum; and in the next reign it had ninety-five ſhips, and upwards of fifteen hundred ſeamen; but not long after it began to decay. Leland tells us, that a great ſhip belonging to pope Paul the Third, being loſt in the harbour, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, a bank came in the place, by the gradual acceſſion of ſands; and ſince that time it has been continually growing worſe and worſe, notwithſtanding all the endeavours that have been uſed for its recovery, and notwithſtanding the Flemings, who ſettled here in

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in the reign of queen Elizabeth, not only ſet up a manufacture, but alſo taught the inhabitants ſeveral methods of improving their land, particularly by the cultivation of carrots, and other vegetables, in high perfection; on account of which Sandwich has long been celebrated. It retains, however, the honour of being one of the Cinque Ports, and is ſtill the only legal Port in this county, with a cuſtom-houſe, and proper officers; though, in other reſpects, but the ſhadow of what it was.

The Cinque Ports, or as we very frequently find them called ſimply, The Ports, by way of excellence, ſeem to have been copied from the Roman inſtitution; and though there is now no charter extant, earlier than the reign of Edward I. yet in that there is mention made of immunities granted them by William the Conqueror; and the cuſtoms of particular places extend ſtill higher, which ſhew they are derived from immemorial preſcription. The five Ports are Haſtings, New Romney, Hithe, Dover, and Sandwich. The two additional towns, Rye and Winchelſea. Each of theſe head Ports had ſeveral members, the inhabitants of which participated of their privileges, and bore a ſhare in their expences. They were bound, in lieu of all other ſervices, to exert their naval force, for maintaining and protecting the free navigation of the Channel, by preventing piracies, and all impediments or interruptions thereto. They were, amongſt them, to furniſh fifty-ſeven ſhips, every ſhip to be manned with twenty men and a boy, at their own coſts, for the ſpace of fifteen days, and ſo long after as the king ſhould pleaſe to appoint; but then they were to be in his pay. The honours, privileges, and prerogatives granted to them, in conſideration of theſe ſervices, were many and great. Amongſt others, they were each of them to ſend two Barons to repreſent them in parliament; were, by their deputies, to bear the canopy over the king's head at his coronation,

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and to dine at the uppermoſt table, in the great hall, on his right hand; to be exempted from ſubſidies, and other aids; their heirs to be free from perſonal wardſhip, notwithſtanding any tenure; to be impleaded in their own towns, and not elſewhere; to hold pleas and actions real and perſonal; to have conuſance of fines; to have the power of enfranchiſing of villains; not to be liable to tolls, and to have a full liberty of buying and ſelling; to appoint their bailiff to have juriſdiction with the magiſtrates of Yarmouth, during the fiſhing-fair; and many others of leſs importance. It was to direct and enforce the due performance of theſe important ſervices, and to ſuperintend the punctual preſervation of theſe extraordinary privileges, that the conſtable of Dover caſtle, ſtiled alſo lord warden, chancellor, and admiral of the Cinque Ports, was appointed; which high office has been ſometimes executed by the heirs apparent of the crown, often by princes of the royal blood, and always by perſons of the firſt rank in the kingdom. In conſequence of this eſtabliſhment, the ſhips of theſe, in conjunction with thoſe of other ports, were the navy of the realm; and, as our hiſtories ſhew, in almoſt every reign, diſcharged this truſt with great honour and reputation: neither were the Cinque Ports reſtrained to the number of veſſels before-mentioned, but have ſometimes fitted out double the number; and, when larger ſhips were thought neceſſary, have equipped fewer of theſe, at an expence equivalent to that which their ſervices by tenure would have occaſioned. At the cloſe of queen Elizabeth's reign they had five ſhips, of one hundred and ſixty tons each, at ſea for five months, at their own charges; and in the beginning of the reign of Charles I. they fitted out two large ſhips, which ſerved for two months, and coſt them upwards of eighteen hundred pounds.

1c As we have thus ſhewn what their force once was, let us now examine the cauſes that have been aſſigned for their decay.

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cay. The firſt is, the failing of their reſpective havens, ſome by the deſertion, ſome by the impetuoſity, and ſome by the beach thrown out of the ſea; as to which we have already ſaid ſomewhat, and ſhall hereafter ſay more. In the next place, the change in the navy is alleged, and with good reaſon. While the Ports were entruſted with the ſea force of England, they were well enabled to build and maintain many ſtout ſhips, according to the notions of thoſe days, from the certainty of their being taken into the pay of the crown in time of war, which, inſtead of impoveriſhing, ſerved to enrich them, almoſt as much as trade, in time of peace; and was likewiſe, while ſuch a method of maintaining a naval ſtrength was adequate to the wants of the public, advantageous alſo to the nation. The third cauſe of their ſinking, was from the invaſion of their privileges in reſpect to trade, not by laying them open for the common good, but by tranſferring them to others. Firſt, in regard to foreign commerce, the charter granted by James I. to the merchant-adventurers, excluded them from trading to Germany and the Low Countries, which was the principal ſource of their wealth; and by their long intercourſe with the inhabitants, they had procured to themſelves advantages and immunities, which, by this interruption of their correſpondence, were loſt. Next, in reference to their common tranſactions in domeſtic trade. The citizens of London, though the charter of the Cinque Ports be near an hundred years older than theirs, diſputed their right of buying and ſelling freely their cloths in Blackwell-hall, and in the cloſe prevailed. This induced the manufacturers and the maſters of trading veſſels to remove, and of courſe the merchants followed them; and being thus unhappily ſtripped of thoſe advantages, whence aroſe their opulence and ſplendor in former ages, it is no great wonder that even the traces of both are almoſt worn out in ours. But though the wonder is not great, yet we

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cannot ſay the ſame as to the loſs, which certainly is much to be regretted.

" The diſcovering ſome acquaintance with the antiquities of this county, the recalling ſome forgotten truths to remembrance, or bringing ſome memorial of the importance, grandeur, and decline, of the Cinque Ports, to the public view, though very laudable endeavours in themſelves, were not the motives of my entering ſo deep into, or dwelling ſo long upon, this ſubject. My true deſign is, to place in a proper light, what I take to be the ſtrongeſt inſtance that can be produced in ſupport of the general doctrine this chapter is intended to eſtabliſh. As high in point of time as we have any lights from authentic hiſtory, this territory was the principal ſeat of our foreign commerce. For in this, by the cleareſt evidence, we have ſhewn the Romans had a conveniency we have loſt, an haven between Kent and Thanet, which, all circumſtances conſidered, of ſituation, ſize, and ſafety, may be perhaps affirmed ſuperior to any we have left. Beſides that, they had alſo ſeveral other good ports, which they fortified, ſecured, and preſerved, that are now, ſome totally gone, others become very inconſiderable, all mightily impaired. We have no direct or poſitive proofs, indeed, of their carrying on a lucrative trade; but the probability of this is ſo ſtrong, that it cannot be doubted.

" For as they made their firſt impreſſion, ſo they extended their dominion, in this iſland, by their naval force; and we know, that could only be ſuſtained by commerce. In this, it is moſt likely, thoſe immenſe ſums were employed, which Seneca is reputed to have lent at intereſt. Carauſius and Allectus held the title of emperors ten years, from the power given them by the maritime force of Britain. After this, we find the ſame people raiſing fortreſſes to cover the Ports, on this coaſt eſpecially, from the piracies of the northern nations, and putting into them competent garriſons for their defence,

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defence, in caſe they proceeded to make any deſcents; which are ſtrong indications of their having a rich, well-cultivated country to protect; and we can conceive no means of its becoming ſo, but from the traffick of its inhabitants, the natural ſource of wealth and proſperity to ſuch people as are ſeated in an iſland. Our Saxon anceſtors, who were the next poſſeſſors of this region, while all its ports were open and in good condition, adopted the ſame maxims, and purſued them with ſuch effect, that Ethelbert king of Kent, extended his dominions from the banks of the Thames to thoſe of the Humber. Himſelf and his ſucceſſors founded, or at leaſt beſtowed names on many great towns, adorned them with ſtately ſtructures, leaving ſuch a variety of monuments of prudence, piety and policy; as inconteſtibly prove their ſubjects muſt have been numerous, induſtrious, and opulent. After the Daniſh wars, felt no-where more ſeverely than in this county, when the Normans came to be quietly ſettled, the people of Kent, retaining their original liberties, their ancient cuſtoms, and their acquired trade, made a great figure. The woollen manufacture, being once introduced, throve exceedingly, and ſpread itſelf amongſt them on every ſide. By this, Cranbrook, Aſhford, Sevenoak, Sittingbourn, and many other places, were rendered conſpicuous. But above all Canterbury, which from this, and various other funds of induſtry, maintained its ancient ſplendor, having a guild of merchants, a ſtaple, mint, exchange, and many ſpacious and beautiful markets. The Cinque Ports, enjoying their privileges, were well built, fully inhabited, drove an extenſive commerce, abounded with ſeamen, had many, and for that age ſtout and large, ſhips in conſtant employment. Thus agriculture, handicrafts, and trade, being equally and every-where diffuſed mutually ſupported each other; and the people numerous, active, and indefatigable, kept

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kept up a ſpirit of emulation, from which all parts of the county were in the ſame flouriſhing condition.

"We have no diſtinct account of the time when the firſt attempts were made to gain upon that æſtuary, into which the river Rother, anciently called Limene, diſcharged itſelf into the ſea, between Lydd and Romney. But as there were marſhes there in the times of the Saxons, we have good grounds to believe, that the practice of inning, that is, wreſting land from the river and the ſea, was introduced by their clergy, to whom the property in theſe parts chiefly belonged. By this means they at length drove the river into another channel, and built a ſtrong fence, called the Ree, i. e. the river bank, to keep it from ever returning. The archbiſhops of Canterbury, looking upon this as an admirable method of improving, left their names to thoſe parcels of the marſh which were procured in their times, whence we read of Becket's, Baldwin's, Boniface's, Peckham's innings; ſo that gradually this tract of level ground ſwelled to an immenſe extent, and, taken altogether, has been computed at upwards of fifty-thouſand acres; all become, in a long courſe of time, from dreary ſickly marſhes, very fine and fruitful meads, affording excellent paſture, and of courſe yielding a high rent. But notwithſtanding this, and though it muſt be acknowledged the greateſt acquiſition of its kind, and under the beſt regulations, yet one may reaſonably queſtion, whether the county of Kent has really reaped from thence thoſe advantages that are commonly believed? For to ſay nothing of the labour theſe ſtupendous banks, drains, guts, &c. have originally coſt; the vaſt expence which the making and keeping them in repair conſtantly demands; the hazard in preſerving that always attends them; the loſſes to which they have often been expoſed; and the unwholeſomeneſs of the air, much greater formerly than at preſent; we will conſider what

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what has been abſolutely given up, in order to ſecure this mighty conqueſt.

" Before any of theſe invaſions were made, there ſeems to have been no contention whatever between the ſea and the ſhore. But when once they encroached on that turbulent element, or, to ſpeak with greater propriety, diſturbed the ſettled order of nature, they ſoon felt the effects, if we may ſo ſpeak, of its impetuous reſentment. Sometimes it retired from where they meant it ſhould remain; at others it overflowed, and waſhed away places grown opulent by its bounty. Here it fretted the ſhore, till it fell in; there it threw up beach and ſand, till a new ſoil was formed, that was equally diſagreeable and uſeleſs. In ſhort, from being the ſource of induſtry and plenty, it grew dangerous and deſtructive. Rye, Winchelſea, Haſtings, Hythe, and Romney, with their dependencies, are in a manner totally gone. The ſecond of theſe places has been twice ruined, being once overwhelmed by the fury of thoſe waves, by which it is now abſolutely deſerted. The preſent Winchelſea, raiſed by the wealthy inhabitants of the old town, or rather its remains, appeared ſo majeſtic, even in that ſtate of decay, to queen Elizabeth, who ſaw it not till in this condition, that ſhe could not help calling it, *Little London*. Theſe once large, well-built, and well-peopled towns, have been brought into the piteous plight they now are, by this conteſt between thoſe obſtinate improvers and this boiſterous element. In the courſe of the diſpute, though the multitude were for inning, yet ſome more prudent perſons ſaw and proteſted againſt its conſequences; which is the true ſenſe of the old ſaying, " *That Tenterden ſteeple was the occaſion of Goodwin Sands*;" that is, the rents of Romney marſh, which were partly laid out on that ſtructure, aroſe from thoſe encroachments, which produced an inundation about the time the ſteeple was erected; ſoon after which, a vaſt tract in the low countries being

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being ſwallowed up, thoſe ſands firſt appeared. Theſe, hideous and horrid as they are, prove the great defence of the Downs; and, in conjunction with the South and North Foreland, render them a tolerable road, though ſometimes, through the ignorance and carleſsneſs of pilots, more frequently from the fury of ſouth-eaſt or eaſt-north-eaſt winds, ſhips are driven, and of courſe wrecked, upon them; which makes ſome ſafe port in their neighbourhood ſo deſirable, and the loſs of thoſe we had on both ſides heretofore ſo much to be regretted.

"In reſpect to that arm of the ſea which divided Kent from Thanet, now turned into firm land, the Abbot's wall, which formerly kept out the flood, the old charters, and ſubſequent tenures, clearly ſhew when, how, and by whom, this ſuppoſed improvement was begun, continued, and completed. Beſides the conſtant tradition, and the apparent marks of its once different condition, put all this out of doubt, and, which is more to the purpoſe, ſhew that it was not the declining or deſerting of the ſea, but the continued efforts of men, from the cloſe of the ſixth to the beginning of the ſixteenth century, uſing all their ſkill to expel it, which produced this amazing change. But here again the queſtion is, what has been got by this alteration, contrived with ſo much deliberation, and proſecuted with ſuch application? The fens, or ſalts as they are called, are eſteemed unwholeſome, though very fertile; but, ſince the loſs of their channel, towns are dwindled to villages, ſome villages to a lonely farm houſe, ſeveral churches are decayed, others diſuſed, the number of people diminiſhed, and of the many families of gentlemen who formerly reſided in this iſland, and were both the credit and ſupport of it, there is hardly one left. What is yet ſtronger and ſtranger, the very end aimed at, ſo difficult or rather ſo imprudent a thing it is to contend with nature by force, is by no means accompliſhed. The iſland,

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iſland, in the time of Beda, as is expreſly delivered in his writings, was twice as big as at preſent, which ancient deeds clearly confirm; and, which is no leſs extraordinary, from Domeſday-book it appears, Thanet was then of near the ſame ſize that it is now. It is therefore inconteſtible, that preciſely in the ſame period, when the inhabitants of both the Continent and iſle were buſied in making what they thought improvements, by encroaching on the Wantſume on the ſouth and weſt, the ſea was ſilently and effectually making double repriſals, and ſpoiling all their ports at the ſame time on the north and eaſt.

" Beſides all this, in reference to the iſland, conſider the conſequences which this converting ſo capacious a Port into a marſh has had upon the coaſts of Kent. In the original and genuine ſtate of things, the ſouth ſea (in reſpect to Thanet) flowed round the iſle of Richborough up to Sarr, as the North Sea round Regulbium to Sarr likewiſe; and then all the creeks and inlets on this ſide were on the beſt condition poſſible. But as Romney marſh was gained by choaking the Æſtuary on one ſide, at the very time they were inning this channel on the other, the motion of the water, thus violently croſſed, and forced into an unnatural, impetuous, and contracted ſtate, tore away the chalk and leſſer rocks in ſome places, and threw them up again in others, whence came the new iſle of Stonar, united by the Monks to Thanet; the beach all the way from Sandwich to Deal; and the miſchiefs which have happened both to Sandwich and to Dover: with all the diſtreſſing circumſtances which have hitherto defeated every attempt to repair them; and which it is more than probable will continue to have the ſame effect, in ſpite of any weight of back-water which can be brought to ſcour their channels, which, it ſeems, can only be done by the force of the ſea itſelf, or the ſtrength of the ebb, which, before theſe encroachments, it is evident ſufficiently anſwered.

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that purpoſe, and would have always anſwered it, but for theſe impediments.

" This deduction of facts and reaſoning, made with all the care and attention poſſible, ſeems to prove, that the benefits ariſing from a maritime ſituation are in reality ſuch as I have repreſented them; that is, they are of all others moſt capable of producing a territory well cultivated, and fully peopled; conſequently are the natural ſources of ſtrength, opulence, and grandeur. It ſeems alſo to follow, that their loſs can never be compenſated by an addition of territory, however rich or fertile; becauſe, though this may prove a means of obtaining wealth, it may do this without exciting induſtry; and whenever that happens, how much ſoever individuals thrive, ſociety muſt neceſſarily ſuffer. It is, as has been before obſerved, the conjunction of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, that render the people in any country powerful. As an evidence of this let us obſerve, that in A. D. 1293, in the reign of Edward I. the fleet of the Cinque Ports, conſiſting of one hundred ſail, attacked that of France, compoſed of upwards of two hundred, defeated and deſtroyed them; ſo that, for a ſeaſon, that kingdom was in a manner without ſeamen. This ſhews what the condition of this part of Kent then was. We may from hence alſo infer, the ſtate ought to adopt the Roman policy, and take all havens into her immediate care and protection; regarding at the ſame time whatever reſpects navigation, ſuch as rivers, friths, bays, &c. as belonging inconteſtibly to the public, and therefore not to be touched, much leſs diverted or deſtroyed, from private caprice, lucre, or reſentment; but to be improved on mature deliberation, for the common benefit, as the ſupreme wiſdom of the nation ſhall direct. Laſtly, it is more than probable no method will be found effectual for recovering the Ports of Rye and Sandwich, till we recur to the principles of nature, and abate the

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the violence of the ſea, by admitting its waters in a full body, allowing them room to ſpread, and depending on the force of the ebb for a back-water, which alone has ſtrength enough to keep ports free and open. A ſtep that would not ſimply anſwer the end, in giving us thoſe two important havens, but would alſo either render practicable the retrieving ſome of the reſt, or put it in our power to open new and ſafe harbours, in the vicinity of the old.

" If, after all that has been ſaid, any further arguments ſhould be either neceſſary or expedient, theſe might be copiouſly drawn from the different ſtate of the north ſide of Kent. Whitſtaple, a place of little conſequence in former times, is now, from its being a kind of port to Canterbury, become a town of briſk trade, and a great deal of buſineſs. Feverſham was indeed of note in early times, but would probably have ſhared the fate of other towns, and ſunk in conſequence of the loſs of its famous abbey, but for its commodious creek, by which it is not barely ſuſtained, but is in a very thriving condition, exporting (when they are plenty) large quantities of oyſters to Holland. The ſame may be affirmed of Milton, and Queenborough in the iſle of Shepey; and if we take in Rocheſter, and its dependencies on the Medway, we may, without injury to truth, aſſert, there come annually from theſe places to London, from ſeven to nine hundred veſſels of all ſizes. To ſay nothing of the coaſt trade above Graveſend, which, though carried on in ſmall craft, taken altogether is very conſiderable; or the ſhip-building and other naval manufactures, by which multitudes are employed and maintained, in all the great yet ſtill growing towns on that ſide the Thames. It is to theſe ports chiefly that the obſervation of the wiſe and worthy deſcriber of this ſhire is to be referred,* that it enjoyed in perfection thoſe

* Lambard's Perambulation of Kent. p. 13.

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advantages, ſo much commended by the ancients, viz. the vicinity of the ſea, the convenience of a fine river, with the neighbourhood alſo of a great road, and a vaſt city. It is true that M. Cato ſpeaks loudly in favour of ſuch a ſituation; but then it is in reſpect to a farm; Mr. Lambard is much too humble in applying this to ſo extenſive and noble a county, which was ſome time in name, continued longer ſtill in point of ſtrength, equal to a kingdom; and might moſt certainly become ſo again, if its Ports were thoroughly reſtored, its manufactures revived, and that active ſpirit of induſtry once more awakened, which was the original ſource, and while it ſubſiſted, the ſteady ſupport, of all its priſtine grandeur." Such are the ſentiments of the learned Dr. Campbell.

In Sandwich are three pariſh churches, St. Clement's, St. Mary's, and St. Peter's. There was formerly a fourth in the ſouth-weſt part of the town, dedicated to St. James, but there are no remains of it at preſent. The church-yard is ſtill incloſed, and is uſed for the interment of ſtrangers. St. Clement's church is in the eaſt part of the town, and ſituated upon higher ground than the reſt. It is a large and ancient ſtructure, and much in the ſtyle Norman of architecture; particularly the tower, which is conſiderably older than the reſt of the building. The church conſiſts of three iſles, which are very ſpacious. It was not ceiled till within theſe few years, and has lately been improved and beautified. In the chancel are twenty ancient ſtalls, which were uſed by the brotherhood of the church of St. Clement, to whom the corporation uſed to allow ſix ſhillings and eight-pence, for the maintenance of a proceſſion, when the image of St. George was yearly carried about the town. The church is a vicarage in the patronage of the archdeacon of Canterbury, and rated in the king's books at 13l. 16s. 10½d. the certified value 77l. 10s. 4d. St. Peter's church is ſituated in the middle of the town. It formerly conſiſted of three iſles, but only

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only two now remain. In 1661 the ſteeple fell, and beat down with it the ſouth iſle, and a ſmall part of the body of the church. Some of the outer wall is ſtill ſtanding, where are to be ſeen the remains of the handſome monument of ſir John Grove, of Grove-place, in the pariſh of Staple. He built the ſouth iſle, which is now demoliſhed, at his own expence, about the time of king Henry VI. The church is a rectory, and the right of preſentation is alternately in the crown and corporation * of Sandwich. Its yearly value is 28l. in the king's books 8l. In this church are the bodies of ſeveral eminent perſonages, and founders of chapels and hoſpitals; of whom Thomas Ellis, and Margaret his wife, are diſtinguiſhed for their charitable benefactions; they founded a charity, and endowed it for the ſupport of three prieſts, &c. In the year 1272, Henry Cowfield, an almain, founded a priory of white friars, called Carmelites. Their houſe was in this pariſh, the foundations of which are now diſcernible in the lands called the Friars. The gate of the priory opened into Motſole, and the ſide walls of the avenue leading from thence to the houſe remain to this day. St. Mary's church is at the weſt end of the town, near the river. It is a lofty building, has no ſteeple, and conſiſts of one large ile, and a ſmall one on the north ſide. The large ile contains a ſpacious area, which, with its gallery, renders this church the moſt commodious place of worſhip in Sandwich. The ceiling is of wood, and the chancel elegant. It is a vicarage, of which the archdeacon of Canterbury is proprietor and patron, value 40l. in the king's books 8l. 1s. 0½d. The foundation of this church appears to be very ancient, for it is ſaid to have been burnt by the Danes in 1009, and rebuilt

* In the time of Charles I. the corporation's right of preſentation was queſtioned by the crown, but on examining the cuſtomal and other ancient records of the corporation, the lord keeper and attorney-general were ſatisfied, and acknowledged the right.

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by Emma, queen to Ethelred II. and Canute the Great. It was afterwards deſtroyed by the French, in the reign of Richard II. and was rebuilt by Sir William Leverick, of Aſh, who, with Emma his wife, were buried in the north ſide of the body of the church, in an arched ſepulchre, in the wall. In this church, as well as in St. Peter's, was a chantry founded by Thomas Ellys, and endowed with lands for the maintenance of three prieſts, who were to celebrate divine ſervice every day, for the good of his own ſoul, and the ſouls of his parents, his anceſtors and benefactors. Beſides theſe chantries, there were in this town two hermitages, one in the pariſh of St. James, and the other in Saint Mary's. The laſt hermit which belonged to the former pariſh was one John Steward, who, on the ſuppreſſion of religious houſes, was appointed to the vicarage of St. Mary.

Near Canterbury gate, is a free grammar ſchool, for the inſtruction of the ſons of the freemen. It was founded by Sir Roger Manwood, in 1563. Sir Roger was a native of Sandwich, and lord chief baron of the exchequer in the reign of queen Elizabeth. It is ſuppoſed to have been built on the ſpot where formerly was a nunnery, which was deſtroyed by the French when they burnt St. Mary's church. Some part of the materials were probably applied in building this ſchool. It was endowed by Robert Trapes, and his wife, with the privilege of ſending two ſcholars to Lincoln college, Oxford. The maſter of the ſchool is generally the reſident miniſter of St. Mary's church, and is allowed a ſalary of about thirty pounds a year. There is likewiſe in this town a ſchool for the inſtruction of thirty poor boys and as many girls. It is ſupported by ſubſcription. The maſter and miſtreſs are allowed twenty pounds a year each. The maſter of this charity ſchool has alſo the care of what is called the town ſchool, eſtabliſhed for the education of ſix boys, by David

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David Turner, who demiſed three tenements for that purpoſe. There are three hoſpitals belonging to Sandwich, the principal of which is Saint Bartholomew's, ſituated about a furlong without town. It is encloſed with a ſtone wall, in which, on the ſide next the road, is a large gate. Within the wall is a ſtone chapel, and ſixteen convenient tenements for the uſe of the brethren and ſiſters, who are generally widows and decayed tradeſmen. To each houſe is annexed a ſmall garden. Every member is allowed wood and ſtubble for firing, and receives about eighteen pounds annually.—Divine ſervice is performed in the chapel once a year, on the feaſt of St. Bartholomew, when an anniverſary ſermon is preached on the occaſion. The founders of this houſe were Thomas Cromphorn and Matilda his wife, of the ancient family of De Sandwich. It was eſtabliſhed about the year 1190, and in 1349 Edward III. at the requeſt of John Gybonn, granted to this hoſpital the profits of a ferry into the iſle of Thanet. By a patent in the ſixteenth year of Richard II. 1693, it appears, that this hoſpital was appropriated for twelve perſons, and was endowed with one meſſuage and one hundred and thirty-two acres of land in the pariſh of Wodneſborough. The profits of the ferry were farmed at the yearly rent of ſixty-two pounds ſterling, which annual ſum, on the building of a bridge over the river Stour, was allotted by Parliament to be paid to the maſter, brothers, and ſiſters of the ſaid hoſpital, out of the monies ariſing from the tolls of the bridge. The mayor and jurats of the town of Sandwich were appointed its governors, and all vacancies are filled up by the mayor for the time being.

The other two hoſpitals are near the corn-market; one of which is dedicated to St. Thomas, and the other to St. John the baptiſt. They are ſaid to have been founded by Thomas Elly's, in the year 1400; but this is a miſtake.—The hoſpital or houſe of St. John the baptiſt, is of a more ancient

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ancient foundation. In a charter dated anno decimo ſexto Edwardi I. Filii Henrici III. anglæ regis, that is, in 1287, the brothers and ſiſters of the houſe of God and ſaint John in Sandwich are mentioned. Thomas Ellys might afterwards have made ſome conſiderable additions to the building or endowments, and from thence derived the title of founder. In ſaint Thomas's hoſpital, twelve poor perſons are allowed about ten pounds a year each, with an apartment. St. John's hoſpital ſupports ſix only, who are paid annually four pound each. All the vacancies in the former are filled by feoffees, and in the latter by the mayor. St. John's houſe was a poor endowment from the beginning. Diſtreſt and infirm travellers were relieved and entertained in it. Cloaths and bedding were provided for them; and if they died, they were buried at the expence of the hoſpital. Certain of the brothers aſked alms every Sunday, in the churches within the town, to buy meat for their Sunday's dinner. Another brother was aſſigned to beg fiſh of the fiſhermen. Another was ſent out with an aſs, begging within the county of Kent, who ſometimes would render clear to the hoſpital, above his expences, one mark, and frequently ten ſhillings. They were allowed all forfeitures of fiſh and fleſh, incurred by breach of the ordinances of the town of Sandwich, and all hogs running about the ſtreets, and all kind of fowls found ſwimming in the Delph. They had likewiſe the advantage of keeping a ſtandard buſhel, by which ſtrangers might aſcertain the goodneſs of their meaſures.

The river is now about thirty yards broad at high water, over which travellers, horſes, and carriages, were conveyed in a flat-bottom boat. A guard was anciently placed there for th ſecurity of this paſſage. But in the year 1756, in the mayoralty of Solomon Ferrier, eſq; the preſent bridge was begun; and finiſhed in the following year. Large contributions were raiſed for carrying on the work. John Cleveland

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Cleveland and Claudius Amyand, eſqrs; who were at that time members in parliament for this ancient Cinque Port, ſubſcribed two hundred and fifty pounds each. In 1757 lord Conyngham, who ſerved in parliament for the town, gave towards it five hundred and fifty pounds. Doctor Hay, a ſucceeding repreſentative, contributed three hundred pounds, and Sir George Oxenden one hundred. The bridge is built with ſtone, having an arch on each ſide, and a paſſage between for the larger veſſels, that uſe this port. The middle arch is wood, divided into two parts, which are hung nearly in an equilibrio, by which means they are eaſily drawn up or let down. The paſſage over the ſtone part of the bridge is ſecured by a parapet wall on each ſide, and the wooden arch by chineſe rails. It is a work of conſiderable utility, not only to the inhabitants of Sandwich and the iſle of Thanet, but to the eaſtern part of the county of Kent, and to the public in general; the ferry having been very inconvenient and dangerous, and of no ſmall obſtruction to trade.

The ſtreets of Sandwich are narrow and irregular. Strand-ſtreet, which reaches from Canterbury-gate to Sandown-gate, might have been made a commodious thoroughfare; but at preſent is broken into many diſagreeable angles. High-ſtreet, Fiſhers-ſtreet, and Delph-ſtreet, are the broadeſt and moſt airy, in which are ſeveral good houſes. Here is a handſome ſquare called the fiſh-market, which conſiſts principally of ſhops; but the avenues leading to it are indifferent, excepting that from the Corn-market, which is another ſquare, much larger than the former, but inferior to it with reſpect to the buildings. Near the weſt ſide of this ſquare is the town-hall, which is a very ancient ſtructure. All public buſineſs is tranſacted in the lower court; over which is the council chamber. Sandwich claims juriſdiction over Deal, Ramſgate, Fordwich, Sarre, and Brightlingſea in Eſſex, which are members of this Cinque Port. It uſed to furniſh

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five ſhips compleat for ſervice. This town was anciently incorporated by the name of the barons of the town and port of Sandwich; but at preſent is incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty. It ſends two members to parliament, who ſtill retain the ancient name of barons of the Cinque Port of Sandwich. The freemen of the Cinque Ports have the privilege of ſending a certain number of their own members to ſupport the royal canopy at a coronation. Beſides the mayor, there are twelve jurats and twenty-four common-council-men, a town clerk, two treaſurers, and other inferior officers. The mayor is annually choſen by the reſident freemen, and ſuch as have not been out of the liberties one year and a day. The mayor is elected on the Monday following the feaſt of St. Andrew, when every elector after having given his vote, receives one ſhilling. Till the year 1683, the mayors were always elected in St. Clement's church. When any buſineſs is to be tranſacted in the town-hall, the freemen are ſummoned to appear by the ſound of a brazen horn, which is of great antiquity, and is blown by the town-cryer, early in the morning, at different parts of the town. The legitimate children of freemen, whether male or female, born within the liberties, are free; and every alien marrying a freewoman has a right to the freedom of this Port. The trade of this town chiefly conſiſts in coals, fir, timber, deals, &c. with which the country is ſupplied. Here alſo are ſhipped corn, malt, fruit, and ſeeds, for London and other markets. The ſeeds raiſed from this ſoil are in much repute.

Sandwich receives two hundred pounds a year from the truſtees of Ramſgate pier, in order to cleanſe the harbour from any nuiſance occaſioned thereby. The town is for the moſt part ſupplied with water from a narrow ſtream called the Delph, which runs through it. Here is a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, and a fair on the 4th of December,

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cember, which continues two days. The ſhrimps which are caught near this town are remarkably excellent. There are ſeveral good inns in Sandwich, and many wealthy inhabitants. Here is alſo a large and elegant aſſembly room, which has been built within theſe few years. Since the conſtruction of the bridge, and the reſort to Margate as a bathing-place, the town has been more frequently viſited by ſtrangers; a tour from thence to Sandwich, Deal, Dover, &c. being a pleaſant and agreeable excurſion.

South of Sandwich, as we go along upon the ſea-ſhore, are ſix large and broad celtic tumuli, equidiſtant; the ſecond from the town has been dug away, to raiſe a little fort upon the road; they all ſtand in a line eaſt and weſt.* This flat coaſt is fenced againſt the ocean by the ſand-downs, which in Lincolnſhire are called meals; but within the memory of man, the ſea has commenced a new method of guarding againſt its own violence, by covering the ſhore, for a great depth and height, with the pebbles before mentioned; which is an odd mutation in nature; and it is obſervable that theſe pebbles come from the ſouth. The road from Sandwich as far as Hythe lies near the brink of the cliff, in

* There are a great number of large barrows about Sandwich; one at Winſborough, with a tree upon it; ſo it is called by the vulgar, but the learned make it Woodneſborough; between that and Sandwich is another, called Marvil hill.

Sandwich is in a miſerable, decayed condition, following apace the downfall of its mother Rutupium; it might eaſily be made the beſt harbour on this coaſt, by cutting a new channel for the river about a mile and a half through the ſand hills ſouth-eaſterly; for the water of the river Stour would ſufficiently ſcour it, did it run ſtrait, and with that direction. All the walls and bulwarks of the town are diſmantled, the gates tumbling down; and a few cannon lie ſcattered here and there. This town likewiſe might be made very ſtrong; for, beſides the river Stour, another rivulet runs through it, that would keep the ditches always full.

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ſight of France near all the way, and in the ſummer time, when the days are ſerene and calm, the beauty of the proſpect is beyond expreſſion. Much ſea *tithymal* grows here, and a very pretty plant, *papaver cornutum flore luteo*, rock ſamphire feeding upon *petroleum*, a moſt excellent pickle, and many more. From theſe cliffs the murmur of the ocean has a noble ſolemnity in it, as Homer ſays, when latiniſed:

Eructante ſalo raucam dant littora vocem.

More copiouſly expreſſed in Virgil,

Et gemitum ingentem pelagi, pulſataque ſaxa,
Audimus longe, fractaſque ad littora voces,
Exſultantque vada atque æſtu miſcentur arenæ.

Æn. iii.

which is an exact idea of this place. By liſtening attentively we may obſerve this noiſe of the ocean is by fits, at ſhort but equal intervals, which gave occaſion to that fancy of the ancients, that every tenth wave was the largeſt; of which Ovid has a diſtich.

Sandown caſtle is compoſed of four lunettees of very thick arched work of ſtone, with many port-holes for great guns; in the middle is a great round tower, with a ciſtern at top; underneath an arched cavern, bomb proof: a foſs incompaſſes the whole, to which there is a paſſage over a draw-bridge. Deal caſtle and Walmer caſtle are of the ſame nature, all built by Harry VIII. to guard this naked level coaſt; moreover, lines are drawn along between caſtle and caſtle, and at proper intervals round baſtions with a ditch and parapet of earth, where cannon may be planted as in the infancy of fortification. Theſe are what Camden calls Rome's works, and fancies to be the remnants of Cæſar's ſhip camp: the neighbours with as little truth affirm they were thrown up by

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by Oliver Cromwell, for reduction of theſe caſtles; one is cloſe by the north ſide of Deal, and two between Deal caſtle and Walmer caſtle. At Walmer caſtle the cliff begins for about half a mile ſouthward with a gentle riſe to a hill, whereon is a tumulus: then the ſhore is plain again in a valley till we come to King's-wold, which is half a mile's ſpace. Between Walmer caſtle and Deal is the ſpot where Cæſar landed in his firſt expedition, becauſe it is the firſt place where the ſhore can be aſcended north of Dover, and exactly anſwers his aſſigned diſtance of eight miles: probably in his ſecond expedition, when he came with many more ſhips and men, and had a perfect knowledge of the country, he went a little farther in the Downs. As for his ſea-camps, it is vain to expect a ſight of them; they are many ages ſince abſorpt by the ocean, which has ſo long been exerciſing its power, and waſting the land away. Even ſince Harry the VIII.th's time it has carried off the ſea-ward *eſplanades* of the three caſtles, and one half of two of the three circular forts. Indeed, of late years, the providential ejectment of thoſe pebbles has put a ſtop to it in ſome meaſure; and it is amazing to ſee how it by degrees fills up theſe foſſes and trenches, and ſometimes flies over the banks a good way up into the land, with a power well expreſſed by the poet,

Aut vaga cum Tethys Rutupinaque littora ſerveni.

Lucan. vi.

The town of Deal is about five miles ſouth-weſt of Sandwich; it is pretty large, has a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, and two fairs annually, on the 5th of April, and 10th of October. It is divided into upper and lower Deal; the former is the moſt ancient, the latter having had its exiſtence from the increaſe of trade. The trade of the inhabitants chiefly conſiſts in ſupplying the ſhips which rendezvous

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dezvous in the Downs. It is ſeated near the ſea; has a church, a chapel, and about 1000 houſes, which are moſtly low and built with bricks; theſe form three long but narrow ſtreets: the inhabitants amount to about 4500. Deal is a member of the port of Sandwich, and is governed by a mayor and jurats, ſubordinate to that town.

Between Deal and the Goodwin-ſands are the Downs, much frequented by the royal navy, and by merchant ſhips, yet they are expoſed to conſiderable danger, from the ſtorms which often happen on this coaſt; nor has any remedy been provided againſt this evil. An attempt had been made at Ramſgate, but the project is too ill-concerted to anſwer any end. The flat ſhore betwixt Sandwich and Deal, nature ſeems to have deſigned for a ſafe harbour for ſhips in diſtreſs. A work of this kind has been attempted more than once; particularly in 1744, when a propoſal was publiſhed for conſtructing an harbour between the town of Sandwich and Sandown caſtle. The gentlemen who ſupported this deſign applied to parliament for aſſiſtance: The petition was preſented by Mr. Fane, and although it appeared very evident to the houſe, that an harbour in this ſituation would prove of the utmoſt utility, yet the ſcheme was rendered abortive, by paſſing an act for eſtabliſhing an harbour at Ramſgate.

At Deal caſtle is a very good well, though cloſe by the ſea. Our journey now lays upon the edge of the cliffs, whoſe precipicious height with the noble proſpect at ſea, and moſt awful roaring of the waves, fills the mind with a ſenſe of nature's majeſty. About St. Margaret's on cliff, in two places, are a great number of tumuli, of unequal bulk, cloſe by one another, like thoſe about Barham-downs, and between Hardres * and Chilham, and other places.

* At Hardres place, the ſeat of Sir William Hardres, lay king Henry VIII. when going upon his expedition at Boloign: he left his picture here,

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Dover is a moſt romantic ſituation: it is a great valley, and the only one about this coaſt where water is admitted inwards of the cliff, here very high; and a running brook diſcharges itſelf into the ſea: † the water formerly came a good way higher up, and made a large port; and they have found anchors above the town. The Roman city of *Dubris* was to the ſouth of the river, the Watling-ſtreet enters it at Bigin gate, coming very ſtrait from Canterbury over Barham-down, where it is very perfect: butting directly upon the great tower of the cathedral, it bears a little more northerly than north-weſt. This city was an oblong ſquare, and ſome of the walls are left; the churches are of a very antique make: that of St. Martin is collegiate, founded by Wightred king of Kent; it is a venerable ruin; the eaſt end ſeems to have terminated in three ſemi-circular works; it was built in form of a croſs, as to its main body. Much remains of the priory, now a farm-houſe. The *maiſon dieu* over againſt it is become a ſtore-houſe: here the knights hoſpitallers or templars lodged, coming into, or going out of, the kingdom. The piers that form the haven, or large baſon, are coſtly and great works; above is a fort of four baſtions of modern date. The broad beach which lies at the mouth of this great valley, and was the harbour in Cæſar's time, is very delightful: it is no little part of the diverſion, in walking there, to obſerve the odd produce of the ocean thrown up under your feet, and the ſea-plants that grow there; the *umbelli*, *ſtar-fiſhes*, many curious foſſils and ſhells; the *eringo*, *ſea-lungs*, *ſea-weed*, or *ood* as called, &c. One long

here, and an old dagger, very broad, and about as long as a Roman ſword, the handle is of ſilver gilt enamelled, with mottos on it. The old gates of this ſeat were the gates of Boloign, brought thence at that ſiege by Sir William's anceſtor, who accompanied the king.

† By St. Margaret's are many natural cavities in the chalk cliffs, and an admirable large ſpring ariſing from the beach with great force when the tide is out.

ſtreet

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ſtreet here is named Snare-gate, from the moſt tremendous rocks of chalk hanging directly over the houſes; as Charſborough in Yorkſhire, ſays Mr. Camden, p. 715.

The caſtle is the ſtrongeſt place in the world, of old fortification; it takes up thirty acres of ground; it is an amazing congeries of walls, ditches, arches, embattlements, &c. and all imaginable contrivances to render it impregnable after the old mode; but with the higheſt regret we behold this moſt noble and memorable fortreſs, once thought the key of Britain, and that has divers times had the honour to ſave the kingdom from conqueſt and ſlavery, now become a common prey to the people who belong to it; in the late wars with France they kept 1500 priſoners in the great caſtle; but of late years they have carried away the timbers and floors, diſabling it even for that uſe. The braſs gun called Queen Elizabeth's pocket-piſtol is a great curioſity, twenty-two feet long: it requires fifteen pounds of powder, and carries a ball ſeven miles; it is excellently wrought. Here are two old keys, and a braſs horn, which ſeem to be the enſigns of authority belonging to the conſtable of the caſtle, or lord warden of the Cinque Ports. One part of the fortifications conſiſts of a large circular work, in which ſtands the old church, ſaid to have been built by Lucius, an ancient king of the Britons, and firſt chriſtian. Biſhop Stillingfleet thinks he is no romantic perſon, but reigned in Kent and Suſſex: however that be, this church ſeems as ancient as the time aſſigned him. There is not much doubt to be made, that upon this hill was a *caſtrum* of the Romans, like that at Richborough, to guard this haven. It is ſomewhat ſurprizing that our Saxon anceſtors ſhould take great pains to demoliſh Roman works, though they wanted ſuch in the ſame places, and were forced to build them again. We may look upon this as an argument that they had no thoughts of conquering the iſland at firſt, and deſtroyed theſe bulwarks, that ſuch

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ſuch might not hinder their depredations; but eſpying the nakedneſs of the land, thoroughly evacuated of its youth and men of arms by the Romans, they found a conqueſt practicable: then were they obliged to repair theſe caſtles. The church we are ſpeaking of was built, in the firſt times of chriſtianity, out of part of the Roman ruins, whence there are huge quantities of Roman bricks laid into the work; the arches are entirely turned with them; the corners and many parts, both within and without, are built up therewith; and the remainder is of ſtone originally cut by the Romans; it is in form of a croſs, and has a ſquare tower in the middle. The ſtone windows of this church are of later date than the building; they have been put in long ſince; but the greateſt curioſity here is the *Pharos* or Roman watch-tower, ſtanding at the weſt end of the church; notwithſtanding it is ſo much diſfigured by new daubing with mortar, caſing and mending, we may eaſily diſcover its primary intention.

According to Harris, this caſtle is ſaid to contain 35 acres of ground, and that it was built by Julius Cæſar; but he ſtaid here ſo little a while, and was ſo warmly engaged by the Britains, that he could have neither time nor leiſure for ſuch a work, however the Roman bricks very plentiful ſtill to be ſeen about it, ſhew it muſt have been built during the time of their continuance here; and perhaps ſome watch tower might have been built there ſoon after Julius Cæſar's time, probably by the Britons. It was formerly thought to be a place of the greateſt importance, Matthew Paris, who lived in the reign of king Henry III, calls it, *clavis et repagulum totius regni*, and no doubt king William I, thought it ſo too, for when he agreed with Harold of Normandy that he ſhould put him into the poſſeſſion of the crown of England after king Edward the Confeſſor's death, in order thereunto he ſtipulated with him that he ſhould deliver up to him Dover Caſtle with the well that was therein. King Stephen,

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in the contention, that there was between him and Maud, the empreſs, about the title to the crown of England, thought nothing would be of more ſervice to him than to get this caſtle into his poſſeſſion; and thus alſo when Lewis the Dauphin of France, in king John's time, came hither at the inſtigation of the Pope and by the invitation of the nobility, to invade this kingdom, and had partly through fear, and partly through the treachery of the barons, moſt of the caſtles and forts in the ſouth of England delivered up to him, yet he did not think himſelf ſafe becauſe he had not poſſeſſion of this caſtle of Dover; and king James, his father, ſwore by St. James's arm, that unleſs he had this he had not gained a foot of land in England: Hither therefore he came with all his might and power, and beſieged it cloſely and vigorouſly, cutting a trench from the poſtern gate right down to the river which hath ſince been called the Port Dyke, but Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent, chief Juſticiary of England, Warden of the Ports and conſtable of this caſtle, defended it ſo bravely that the French made nothing of it, but were forced to give it over, and as Lambard obſerves, the delivery of this land from foreign ſervitude at that time was entirely owing to the valour and conduct of this gallant and great earl of Kent: And to give you one inſtance more of the importance of this caſtle in the opinion of our anceſtors, Matthew Parris tells us, that when king Henry III, invited over his own brother, Richard earl of Cornwall, then king of the Romans, to come and ſee him and to viſit alſo his lands here, the barons would neither let him nor the king who came hither to meet him enter into this caſtle, nor any of their retinue, ſo jealous were they of a place of ſuch ſtrength being in the hands of the king or his friends. Below the caſtle, under the ſteepeſt cliff near the ſea is a ſtrong fort built, as is alſo another oppoſite to it on the weſtern ſide of the harbour. Anno Domini 1580, April 6, an earthquake was felt

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felt here which threw down a piece of the cliff, with part of the caſtle ſtanding on it next the ſea. In 1756 the caſtle was repaired, and there are barracks for 3000 men.

On the other high cliff oppoſite to this, beyond the town, has been another *Pharos*: ſome part of the bottom part of it is ſtill left, called the Devil's Drop, from the ſtrength of the mortar; others call it Bredonſtone. Here the new conſtable of the caſtle is ſworn. If we conſider the ancient ſtate of Dover, we muſt imagine that the little river ran directly into the ſea, and left a harbour cloſe at the walls of the town; but in proceſs of time, as the ſea threw up that vaſt beach which lies betwen the town and it, the river was forced by an oblique paſſage to creep along the ſhore under the ſouthern cliff, and there vent itſelf where now is the harbour.

Dover lies at the eaſt part of Kent adjoining to the ſea, and about five miles north eaſtward from Folkſtone, in the Balliwick of Stouting, Lath of St. Auguſtine, and Eaſt Diviſion of the county. It was incorporated by the name of the Mayor, Jurats and Commonalty of the town and port of Dover (and before that, by the name of the Barons of the town and port of Dover) in the reign of king Edward III; their Common Seal hath on one ſide a ſhip, and on the other a man, who, perhaps, is St. Martin riding out of a port with another following him on foot. Dover was ſo eminent in Edward the Confeſſor's time, that, by Dooms-day Book, it appears of ability to arm twenty veſſels and to maintain them at ſea for fifteen days together in the king's ſervice, each ſhip carrying twenty-one able men; and for this ſervice the king not only granted to the inhabitants to be a free toll and many other privileges, but alſo pardoned them all manner of ſuit and ſervice to any courts whatſoever. St. Mary's church was built by the prior and convent of St. Martin here, and by them was given to the town, but the advowſon thereof was

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given to Hubert de Burgh, the founder of the Maiſon Dieu here, and he afterwards gave it to that hoſpital. The church of St. James did anciently belong to the caſtle of Dover, and in it to this day the courts of Chancery and Admiralty for all the five ports, the two ancient towns, and their members are uſually choſen. St. Martin's was reckoned the mother church, and was called St. Martin Legrand, and by king Henry I was given to the church of Canterbury. It has ſuch a ſuperiority over the other churches and chapels in Dover, that no one of them might ſing maſs till St. Martin's prieſt had begun, and all annual penſions were paid, and all offerings almoſt made at this famous church. Dover was without doubt a port in the time of the Romans, as appears by the Itinerary of Antoninus, and hath continued ſo through the Saxon, Daniſh, and Norman ages, unto this preſent: Kilburn ſays, that before king Arviragus ſtopped up the haven the town ſtretched itſelf more to the eaſtward under the caſtle than it doth now, but after that it was much built on the ſouth-weſt ſide. The town was once well walled from a place called Mansfield corner to Peer gate, from thence to Upwall, Cow-gate, Begin-gate, and ſo along by St. Mary's church-yard to the river, and by ſome old manuſcripts at Sandwich, it is ſaid to have been done by the emperor Severus, by the tower records, Dors. pro An. 17. E. 2. p. 1. m. 16. There was then 21 wards in Dover, each of which was to find a ſhip for forty days at their own charge for the king's uſe, in conſideration of which each ward had thence a licenced packet boat, which was called a paſſenger, to carry or fetch perſons over to and from France, and from Whitſand to Dover, the price for a ſingle perſon was 6d. in ſummer and 1s. in winter, A. D. 1213. In the houſe of the Knights Templars (ſays Stow) was concluded that infamous agreement between king John and Pandulfus, the Pope's legate, whereby that unhappy prince was by ſome meaſure

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meaſure forced to ſurrender his crown to the Pope. Here alſo, A. D. 1216, was King John himſelf when Lewis the Dauphin landed at Stonar by Sandwich, but his army being moſt of them foreigners would not oppoſe Lewis, ſo the king was forced to retire, and Lewis marched to Canterbury, and after that had all the caſtles or ſtrong places delivered up to him, except Dover caſtle, which in July following he beſieged but in vain, not being able to take it. A. D. 1520, the emperor Charles V, landed here, and was met at this place by king Henry VIII, after which they rode to Canterbury, and there kept their Whitſuntide together. It appears by the Dering manuſcripts, that king Henry VIII laid out here above 80,000l. in the work of the famous pier at Dover making a bulwark which ran from Arcliffe far out into the ſea eaſtward; the pier was began in 1533, and was compiled of two rows of main poſts and great piles of 25 and 26 feet in length, which were let into the holes hewn in the rocks below, and ſome of them were ſhod with iron and driven down into the chalky ground; the poſts and piles were faſtened together with iron bands and bolts, &c. and then all were filled up with great chalk, ſtones, beach, &c. but the bottom was great rocks of ſtone of 20 tons apiece, which were brought hither on frames of timber ſupported by empty caſks, &c. on the water at a ſmall expence, and by the contrivance of one John Young, to whom the king gave a yearly ſtipend for his deviſe; the chalk ſtones, &c. to fill up the pier were brought from the north-eaſt ſide in a great boat called Goboth, which had nine keels. The king encouraged this work, and gave towards it above 50,000l. and was ſeveral times in perſon to view it; but afterwards his abſence at the ſiege of Boulogne, his ſickneſs at his return, his dying and his ſons non-age, put a ſtop to, and at laſt expoſed to decay and ruin this noble work: Queen Mary indeed attempted to carry it on again, but neither the officers

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ficers nor the workmen being well paid it came to nothing, and in proceſs of time the ſea brought great quantities of beach again upon it, eſpecially about a fort called the Black Bulwark, that it drove quite through the piles and choaked up the harbour, making a ſhelf of beach from thence eaſterly to the bottom of the cliff called Caſtle Ray; and this ruin of the pier continually increaſed both by the neglect of repairing it, and alſo by the poor people ſtealing the wood and iron, &c. from it almoſt every night; the ſhelf alſo grew worſe and worſe every day, and there was no getting over it but in that place where the river coming down from the town forced a paſſage into the ſea, or till they had dug a channel through it; this, and the loſs of Calais about the ſame time, ſoon brought Dover to decay: at length this ſhelf became of itſelf a kind of defence againſt the ſea, and if ſhips could have got ſafe within it they might have rode there as ſafely; in order to effect this, ſeveral projects were formed, and queen Elizabeth gave to the town the free tranſportation of 30,000 quarters of wheat, 10,000 quarters of barley and malt, and 40,000 ton of beer; one Ferdinando Poins who underſtood the works of the low countries, and who had been much employed in ſtopping up breaches about Woolwich and Earith, was engaged in the affair; he undertook to make certain knocks or groins which ſhould make ſuch a depth of water as that the harbour ſhould be quite dry at low water, ſo that a wall might be built of 120 rods in length from above the water gate to near the Caſtle Ray, running within the ſhelf of the breach directly towards the end of the pier was placed, and at the end of this long wall another of about 40 rods long was to be placed a croſs it reaching to the ſhore at the northern cliff. In order to begin this work, which ſeemed very difficult, Poins had 1000l. ordered him by the commiſſioners, and after that he had 200l. more; he made two groins and got a good depth of

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of water at the harbour's mouth, but it was thought that he charged as much again as he need have done for his work; however, it was concluded nothing could be effectually done to ſecure the harbour without ſuch kind of walls as propoſed, the only queſtion was, how, and with what they ſhould be made; Poins ſaid they might be made well enough with ooze and beach; Pen and Baker, two ſkilful ſhipwrights, propoſed a wooden wall, and gave in a model of ſuch a building, but this was judged both inſufficient and too chargeable and had not been tried any where; Sir Thomas Scot propoſed doing it as the wall againſt the ſea is done in Romney marſh, and after a great deal of enquiry and long conſideration, the Romney marſh men undertook the work, ſo that James Hales was made treaſurer, John Smith expenditor, and ——— Diggs, eſq; ſurveyor, and all under the direction of Sir Thomas Scot. The work was begun in May 1583, the walls were made of earth, chalk in the middle, and ſleech on the outſides, and lined with faggots. Henry Gilford, eſq;, captain of Arcliffe caſtle, was very induſtrious in promoting this work. Sir Thomas Scot undertook tha long wall, Richard Bury, eſq; lieutenant of Dover caſtle, the croſs wall; the croſs-wall was made 90 feet broad in the bottom, 50 feet in the top, and 40 yards long: The long wall 70 at bottom, near 40 at top, aud 120 rods long.

Wonderful application and dexterity was uſed in this work, ſo that in leſs than three months the whole perimeter, as they called it or incluſion of the harbour, was finiſhed, and was ſo tight that it had no leaks at all, and continued ſo for three years, and then at quarter flood a ſhip of 50 tons might come in, and at full ſeas one above 300 tons. There were then finiſhing two jutty heads which would perfect the mouth of the haven, ſo that that any ſhip whatſoever might come in. The charge of the two walls, with the appurtenances, amounted but to 2700l. This pent of wa-

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ter was ſo great, that though on the breaking of one of the gates of the ſluices the beach and ſand came in and ſwarved it up, ſo that in four days no boat could come in and go out, yet on its being repaired again a veſſel of 30 tons was able to paſs in and out. The ſmall ſluice at firſt laid in the croſs-wall was taken up, and one of 16 broad, 80 long, and 30 feet deep laid in its room, which had two gates, and as it was a whole month in laying, ſo the good lord Cobham ſtaid there all the time, and kept a table to encourage the workmen. So univerſal a diligence and public ſpiritedneſs appeared in every one concerned in this mighty and moſt uſeful work.

Since that time it has again declined, notwithſtanding many efforts made, more eſpecially in the reigns of king Charles the Second and of William the Third, and great aſſiſtance given, from time to time, by the authority of parliament, for its relief. But as the poor haven, ſuch as it is, remains ſtill capable of receiving veſſels of ſmall burden, and as the packets to France and Flanders are ſtationed here in the time of peace, it is, though in the cuſtom-houſe books but a member of the port of Sandwich, by much the place of moſt trade and buſineſs upon all this coaſt, and the people the moſt active and induſtrious, Deal, perhaps, only excepted. The town, in its preſent ſtate, may be a mile long; the two pariſh churches are ſtill remaining, and both the fortreſs and the town retain their old honours; the former has its conſtable, and the latter its mayor, and other magiſtrates: And may they retain them! that theſe inſignia of former ſplendor may, ſome time or other, excite the Legiſlature to make a thorough examination, whether it may not be ſtill practicable to do ſomething towards retrieving its ports; which, if it could be effected, the town of itſelf would riſe again into conſideration, from the excellence of its poſition, that gift of nature; the advantages of which, though they may

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may be ſuſpended, cannot be annihilated, even by the moſt ſupine neglect.

In king James the Iſt's. charter of 1606, the back of the pier or harbour-ground was granted by the king to the warden and aſſiſtants of Dover harbour, as it lies without Southgate or Snargate, extending north-eaſt to a tenement or meſſuage (then Mr. Mitchell's) near the pier, and ſouth-weſt to Archcliff bulwark, and its bridge from the rocks and cliffs there unto the outermoſt ſhore of the great ſtanding water, called the great Pent or the Pent wall, and unto the port itſelf called the harbour of Dover, and unto the inwardmoſt bound of the ſea called low-water-mark.

Since that period it has undergone many repairs and alterations; and various regulations and laws have been enacted, to defray the expence of keeping it in good condition; but, there are ſeldom veſſels of more than 250 or 300 tons burthen venture in. Some new works have been lately added; a new head is now carrying out to the weſtward of the pier to prevent, if poſſible, a bar from forming at the entrance of the harbour; great labour and expence has attended this undertaking, which is not yet found effectual. Immenſe quantities of ſtone are alſo imported in order to finiſh the pier heads in the ſame ſubſtantial manner as thoſe at Ramſgate. A new ſluice is now erecting in the croſs wall, and a very complete and ſubſtantial ſtone key on the north ſide of the harbour, and other large works carrying on. A machine of a very curious conſtruction, for driving out the ſand and beach, has been deſigned by the Rev. Mr. Wm. Goſtling, of Canterbury, an ingenious mechanic, but we do not find the commiſſioners have ever yet tried it.

Dover is incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town and port of Dover; as one Cinque Port, ſends two members to parliament, who are elected by the whole body of freemen, as well non-reſidents as

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reſidents. The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports keeps here a court of Loadmanage, for chuſing and appropriating ſkilful and ſufficient pilots, to conduct ſhips into port. There are 50 in number, out of which a maſter is choſen by the whole fellowſhip. Dover ſtill continues to be the ſtation of the packet boats, of which there are now ſix, and the common fare of a paſſenger is 10s. 6d; there are alſo many bye boats elegantly fitted up, the property of Meſſrs. Minet, Fector and Son, in conſtant employ, this being the general place of embarkation for France, and of arrival from that kingdom; from hence alſo are exported the chief part of the Engliſh horſes intended for foreign markets. Dover has a market on Wedneſday and Saturday, and a fair on the 22d of November; it is ſituated 72 miles from London, 16 from Canterbury, and 13 from Sandwich. Machines ſet out for and return from London every day, Sunday excepted.

Beyond Dover ſouthward, leading to Folkſtone, is an exceeding high Cliff, which is thus beautifully deſcribed by Shakeſpeare in his tragedy of King Lear:

There is a cliff, whoſe high and bending head
Looks fearfully on the confined deep——
How dizzy 'tis to caſt one's eyes ſo low!
The crows and choughs that wing the midway air,
Seem ſcarce ſo groſs as beetles. Half way down
Hangs one that gathers ſamphire; dreadful trade!
Methinks he ſeems no bigger than his head.
The fiſhermen that walk upon the beech
Appear like mice, and yon tall anchoring bark
Diminiſh'd to her cock; her cock a buoy,
Almoſt too ſmall for ſight. The murmuring ſurge,
That o'er th' unnumbered idle pebbles chafes,
Cannot be heard ſo high. I'll look no more,
Leſt my brain turn, and the deficient ſight
Topple down headlong——

And

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And in another place he ſaith,

From the dread ſummit of this chalky bourn
Look up: a height—the ſhrill-gor'd lark ſo far
Cannot be heard or ſeen.

Though this cliff may not, in our days, be ſtrictly ſaid to anſwer the above deſcription, as the ſea is conſtantly undermining it, by means of which large fragments frequently fall down, yet it is of a tremendous height, and will not fail to excite admiration, and even aſtoniſhment in ſuch as are not accuſtomed to objects of this kind.

STAGE VIII.

Buckland.—St. Rhadagund's Abbey.—Walderſhare.—Weſt Langdon Abbey.—Ewell.—Barham-Downs, and Watling-Street.—Broome.—Denhill.—Netherſole.—Barham.—Ilden.—Higham.—Biſhopſbourn.—Bridge.—Patrickſbourn.—Biſrons.—Bekeſbourn, to Canterbury.

AFTER leaving Dover, in our road to Canterbury, the firſt place we arrive at is the little village of Buckland, which has a ſmall church, but it contains nothing remarkable. About a mile and a half to the left of this village are the remains of Bradſole, or St. Rhadagund's abbey. It was founded by Hugh, its firſt abbot, and filled with monks of the Premonſtratenſis order, which religious ſociety was inſtituted by St. Norbert, about the year 1119. Lambard ſays, at the ſuppreſſion it was valued at 98 l. a year.

About five miles and a half to the right is the village of Walderſhare. The church is ſmall, but contains ſome good monuments of the ancient family of Monins, who were lords of the manor. In a ſeparate chancel, built by ſir Robert Furneſe, bart. is a noble monument of ſir Robert's father, well executed in marble. In this pariſh is the elegant and

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pleaſant ſeat of the earl of Guildford. The houſe, which is a fine ſtructure, ſituated within a noble park, and ſurrounded with ſpacious gardens, was built by ſir Henry Furneſe. In the park is erected an high belvidere, which commands a beautiful and moſt extenſive view of the country. Oppoſite to lord Guildford's ſeat are the remains of Weſt Langdon abbey, which was founded by ſir William de Auberville, knt. in the reign of Richard I. for monks of the Premonſtratenſis order, and dedicated to St. Mary, and St. Thomas the Martyr of Canterbury. It was ſuppreſſed in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

Between the ſixty-eighth and ſixty-ninth ſtones on the road is the ſmall village of Ewell. This place is remarkable for having been the reſidence of the Knights Templars, who had a grand manſion here, which probably was ſituated about half a mile to the right, where now is a place called the Temple. Proceeding towards Canterbury, and paſſing the ſixty-third ſtone, we enter Barham-Down, which extends in length about four miles. On the left is a beautiful vale, which contains ſeveral pleaſant villages and gentlemen's ſeats; the view to the right is not quite ſo open from the road, but on aſcending the eminence, the proſpects are equally diverſified and more extenſive. On this Down is the ſcite of an ancient camp, with three ditches round it, which ſome conjecture to be the work of Julius Cæſar, on his ſecond expedition to this iſland. Dr. Stukeley, in his *Itinerarium Curioſum*, ſays, "To Dover from Canterbury the Watling-ſtreet is ſtill the common way: it is left entire over Barham-Down, with a high ridge ſtrait pointing to Canterbury cathedral tower: as ſoon as it enters the Down it traverſes a group of Celtic barrows, then leaves a ſmall camp of Cæſar's: further on it has been incloſed through two fields,*

* Several other conſiderable incloſures have been made ſince Dr. Stukely publiſhed his Itinerarium Curioſum.

and

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and levelled with ploughing: then it paſſes by a ſingle barrow, whereon ſtood the mill, which is now removed higher up: then it aſcends the hill to a hedge corner, where are three barrows, a great one between two little ones, all encloſed with a double ſquare intrenchment of no great bulk: I fancy them Roman, becauſe parallel to, and cloſe by, the Roman road: the great barrow has a cavity at top, and an entrance eaſtward; whether caſually, or with deſign, I know not*. At Lyddon the Watling-ſtreet falls into that noble valley of Dover, made of two huge ridges of chalk, which divide themſelves into leſſer vallies, dropping into the great one at regular diſtances, as the little leaves of plants meet at the main ſtem: this valley, when viewed from the end, looks like a landſcape on ſcenes, leſſening, according to perſpective, to Dover, between the two *pbari*, and the ſea at the end incloſed between them. The ſtreet ſlides along the northern declivity, croſſes the rivulet which wanders through the midſt of the valley at Buckland, ſo to Biggin-gate, where is its termination, by the ſide of the old port, having now run from Cheſter about two hundred and fifty miles. Many barrows on the ſides of thoſe hills."

About the year 1212 king John encamped on Barham-Down with an army of ſixty thouſand men, to oppoſe the French, who threatened him with an invaſion. Simon Montford, earl of Leiceſter, alſo drew up a large army here in the reign of Henry III. many other ſcenes of war and peace have paſſed, too numerous to particulariſe. In 1760, when an invaſion was expected from our natural enemies the French, here was an encampment of ſeven regiments of foot, under the command of his grace the late duke of Marlborough.

* Some of theſe barrows were opened a few years ſince by that learned and ingenious antiquarian the late Rev. Bryan Fauſſett, of Heppington, when ſeveral valuable relicks of antiquity were found, ſome of which were of pure gold.

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In the valley on the left is Broome, the fine ſeat of ſir Henry Oxenden, bart. On the right is Denhill, the ſeat of John Morſe, eſq; who has lately repaired and beautified the houſe, and made ſeveral modern improvements in the gardens. It commands a moſt delightful view of the adjacent country. Near this is Netherſole-houſe, the ancient manſion of —— Wincheſter, eſq; John Netherſole, eſq; proprietor of this eſtate in the reign of Henry VIII. was ſo great a favourite, that he was indulged to wear a cap in the king's preſence.

To the left of the Down is the village of Barham, which gives name to this delightful ſpot. The church has in it ſome monuments of the Diggs family, who reſided at Diggs-court in this pariſh. At Denton, in the ſame valley, is the ſeat of Charles Dering, eſq. On the oppoſite ſide of the Down is Ileden, the ſeat of Thomas Watkinſon Payler, eſq; and about two miles farther towards Canterbury is Higham, the new ſeat of James Hallet, eſq. On this part of the Down Canterbury horſe races are annually exhibited. The courſe, till within theſe few years, extended two miles in length, but is now much improved and made round, by which the ſport is greatly increaſed, as the horſes now paſs twice round in each four mile heat. An handſome building was completed in 1774 for the reception of the very numerous and genteel company which frequent thoſe races, and underneath are convenient offices. On the left is Bourne, the handſome ſeat of Sir Horatio Mann, it ſtands in the midſt of a green paddock, with a beautiful trout ſtream running at an agreeable diſtance from the front of the houſe. Since the game of cricket has been patroniſed by ſeveral of our nobility and gentry, in this paddock many grand matches have been decided, between the greateſt heroes of the *Bat* this age, or perhaps any other, ever produced. The pariſh of Biſhopſbourn, in which this ſeat ſtands, was ſo called becauſe it was given by king Kenulph, at the requeſt of

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archbiſhop Athelard, to the priory of Chriſt-Church. In the church are ſeveral good monuments, particularly that of the Rev. Mr. Richard Hooker, author of the Eccleſiaſtical Polity, who was rector of this pariſh.

From the north end of the Down we deſcend into the village of Bridge. This place took its name from a bridge over a branch of the Stour,* which runs through it. It riſes from a ſpring in the pariſh of Biſhopſbourn, and is ſometimes almoſt dry; at other times a flood comes down, from ſprings about Elham, with great rapidity, till interrupted by what the neighbours call ſwallows, where it ſinks into the earth till that is ſaturated, then ruſhes on again to the next interruption of the ſame kind, ſo that a ſtranger might be amazed at walking near this river's ſide and down the ſtream till he has loſt it, and finds the channel dry. Near a mile to the right is the ſmall village of Patrickſbourn; formerly it had the name of Cheney, and was the reſidence of the noble family of Cheney, before they removed to Shorland in the Iſle of Shepey. The church is a building of conſiderable antiquity, its ſouth door is arched with ſtone, and carved with a variety of figures. In this pariſh ſtood the ancient and very pleaſant ſeat called Biſrons, the reſidence of the Rev. Edward Taylor. "It was built," ſays Dr. Harris, "by Robert Bargrave, eſq; or one would rather think by his lady, if one may judge by this motto which was placed upon it:

Diruta ædificat Uxor bona, ædificata diruit mala."

The houſe was pulled down in Feb. 1775, and is now rebuilding on a modern and more elegant conſtruction.

* This bridge being decayed and otherwiſe inconvenient for carriages, a ſubſcription is raiſed for building a new and more commodious one, for which the public are much indebted to the aſſiduity of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, as alſo for his great attention to the late improvements on the road up Bridge hill.

Near

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Near this village is that of Bekeſbourn, which anciently belonged to the cinque port of Haſtings, and enjoyed the ſame privileges. Henry de Beke held certain lands in this pariſh by grand ſergeantry, to find one ſhip each time Henry III. paſſed the ſea. Phillipot ſays, the branch of the Stour was navigable to this place in the reign of Edward III. There was a chantry in the church, founded in 1314, by one James of Bourne, the revenues of which were tranſlated to Cokyn's hoſpital in Canterbury, in 1362. The archbiſhops of Canterbury had here a ſmall but elegant palace, ſome remains of which are ſtill to be ſeen. Near Bekeſbourn is Howlett, the noble ſeat of the family of Hales. It is now the reſidence of lady Hales, widow of the late ſir Thomas Pym Hales, bart.

From Bridge to the city of Canterbury we meet with nothing remarkable till we come to St. Lawrence,* the ſeat of lord Dudley and Ward, near which, on the left, lies the high-road to Romney marſh. This ſeat is oppoſite to the 57th mile ſtone, which ends the *turnpike* road till we come to the half-way houſe towards Dover; this we are informed is the only piece of highway that is to be met with in the direct poſt road from Land's-end in Cornwall to Dover Pier.—We have now brought our traveller to the end of our intended rout, and if we have given him that entertainment which might be expected from this little volume, we ſhall be happy to accompany him next year to ſome other part of the county of Kent, a county ſtill fruitful in various events and which ever made ſo diſtinguiſhed and principal a part of our Engliſh hiſtory.

* On one of the flinty peers of the old gate a figure of St. Lawrence on the gridiron may be diſcovered, with a man ſtanding at his head and another at his feet. This was an hoſpital for lepers, founded by Hugh the ſecond abbot of St. Auguſtine's, of that name, in 1447. The preſent noble poſſeſſor, who is a deſcendant of the family of the family of Rooke, has very lately repaired and beautified this old manſion.

F I N I S.

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